

FULL COLOR PINUP OF THE ROAD WARRIORS

VICTORY SPORTS WRESTLING MAGAZINE

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Spring 1986

BELL  
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# Victory Sports Wrestling

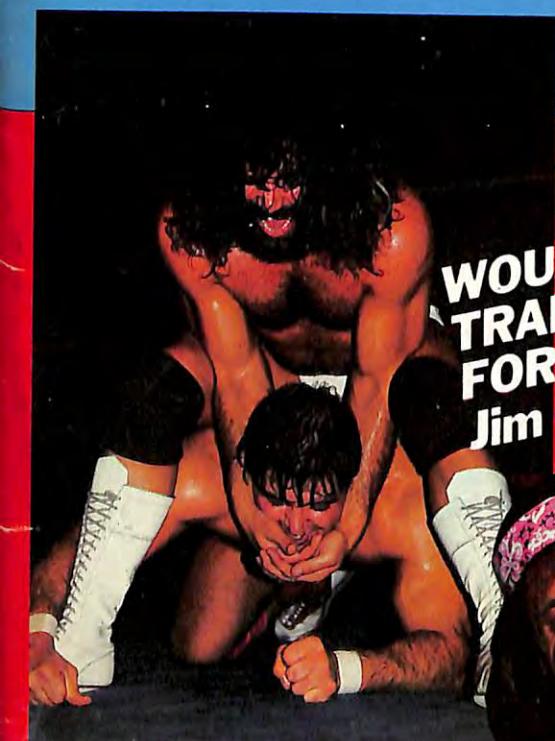
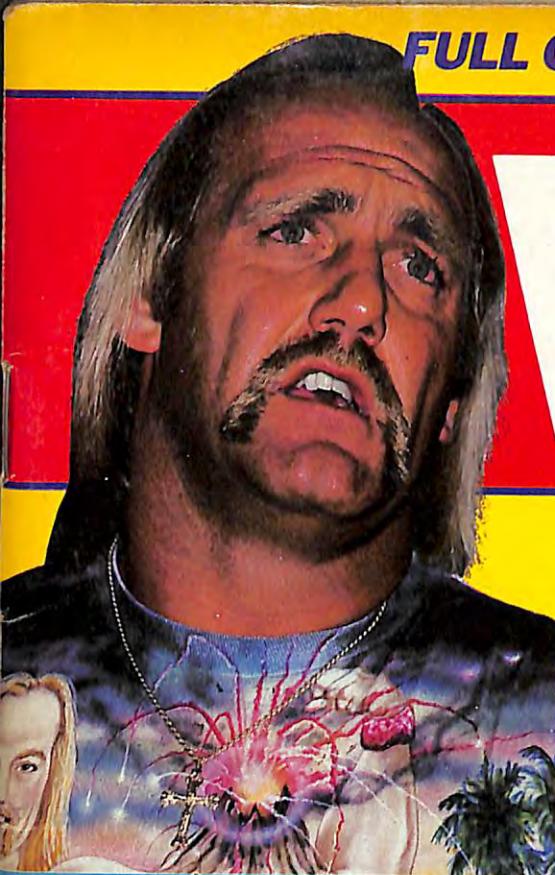
## HULK HOGAN:

**Willing To Pay The Price To Be  
WWF Champion**

THE NEW KEVIN VON ERICH:

"I'M NOT GOING  
TO BE STEPPED ON  
ANYMORE BY ANYONE"

WOULD RICK MARTEL  
TRADE HIS AWA TITLE  
FOR PRECIOUS?  
Jim Garvin Says Yes!



BROTHER VS. BROTHER:  
THE NIGHT  
RANDY SAVAGE  
BATTLED LANNY POFFO

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**Start your own money making business!**

**Make up to \$26<sup>00</sup> an hour—  
even while learning!**

*Train FAST  
at home!*

**Get into this booming high-profit business that's  
Easy to learn—Easy to do—Easy on You!**

Never before have money-making opportunities been so great for qualified Locksmiths. Now lucrative regular lock and key business has multiplied a thousandfold as millions seek more protection against zooming crime. Yet there's only one Locksmith for every 17,000 people!

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You're in "business" ready to earn \$10 to \$26.00 an hour a few days after you begin Foley-Belsaw's shortcut training. Take advantage of today's unprecedented opportunities in locksmithing for year-round EXTRA INCOME in spare time—or fulltime in a high-profit business of your own. Hundreds we've trained have done it. So can YOU! All tools plus professional Key Machine given you with course. These plus practice materials and equipment plus simple, illustrated lessons, plus expert supervision, plus business building guidance will enable you the KEEP THE MONEY COMING IN! Ideal for retirement—good jobs, too.

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Hundreds of Foley-Belsaw trained men have succeeded in this fascinating and highly profitable field...

"Before enrolling I checked other courses and also asked for advice from several locksmiths in my area. They all said yours was tops and has the most versatile Key Machine."

"I always wanted to be in business for myself and now I am... thanks to Foley-Belsaw Institute."

David Fairbrother—Dave's Locksmith Service  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209



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"No more hard, nasty work for me. Now I have my own business and with hardly any effort I average around \$50 a day. Thanks for my new start in life."

Sam Walker Prichard, Alabama

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**BURGLAR ALARM and SECURITY SYSTEMS**

training. Covers all phases of Burglar, Hold-Up and Fire Alarm servicing and installation. This valuable and timely instruction includes all special tools and supplies. ONLY Foley-Belsaw offers such extensive training in this rapidly expanding field as a part of your Locksmith training.

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How to change combinations, install and service Safe, Vault and Bank Safe-Deposit Box locks. You'll find it fascinating and highly profitable work.



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**...YOU Can Do It Too!**

# I TRIED FOR YEARS TO GAIN WEIGHT

*It wasn't easy until now!*

That's what so many men are saying after using *ShapeUp*, the marvelous, new compound, especially formulated by nutritionists, sports dietitians and biochemists for the sole purpose of helping men to more healthful, sturdier and better developed bodies.

## MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

Women are not excited by men who are skeletons. They like men of form and substance. They like men who look good in their clothes and out. They like men who look like men. If you are one of those who knows this and have been trying in vain to do something about it, this is your lucky day. Your search is ended. Your body is about to embark on a trip to its ideal shape and form. *ShapeUp* is here to shape you up . . . and we mean it sincerely. You are about to gain weight . . . and not just flab, but the right amount in the right places. You'll see!

## SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

## GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

## GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with *ShapeUp* working for you.

## LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

In these times when women are free to express themselves and pick and choose their men, you don't need a handicap . . . especially when it's so easy to put yourself in the forefront of competition. Why not look your best? And you will if you feel your best. And you'll feel your best when you gain the kind of nutrition that builds your body to its highest potential. Everyone knows that a healthy body brings a healthy mind and the kind of outlook that makes you want to kick up your heels . . . and go out and lick the world. Yes, with *ShapeUp*, you give yourself a super-lift of confidence, built into its wondrous formula, that's compounded to perk you up and give you a winning attitude.



## STOP WASTING MONEY! Here's a low-cost way!

Some fellows, who've been trying hard to gain weight, resort to all sorts of methods to do so: professional exercise sessions, costly nutritional regimens, large investments in health foods, time-consuming weight-building programs. Yet, here, at an extremely affordable price, you are offered a product so elementary, so easy-to-take, yet so effective we offer it to you without any greater effort than filling out and mailing a coupon. You don't even have to go to a store for it. And unlike any other method, product, means or procedure, we GUARANTEE *ShapeUp* to the point of total freedom from risk of any kind.

## NO GAIN! NO PAY! WE ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEE IT!

Your money back without any strings whatsoever. Try *ShapeUp* for 30 days. It does as we say or you get a full refund.

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P.O. Box 754, Pompano Beach, Florida 33061

Please send me the amount of *ShapeUp* indicated in the box to the right. If not satisfied, I understand you will refund my money. I am adding \$1 for postage and handling.

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Send me the  
30-Tablets size  
for \$7.95

Send me the  
60-Tablets size  
for \$12.75

# Victory Sports Wrestling

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# BE TOUGH!

## I MEAN REALLY TOUGH!

My method of DYNAMIC-TENSION gives you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed. Lose "pot belly."

Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a REAL man! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.

### HOW I CHANGED FROM A 97 LB. WEAKLING TO A REAL MAN.

One day, I discovered a secret that changed me from a timid, frightened scarecrow into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" — a "magic formula" that can help turn you, too, into a marvellous physical specimen . . . a REAL man from head to toe . . . a man who STANDS OUT in any crowd! What's my secret? "DYNAMIC-TENSION" — the natural method! No theory. No gadgets or contraptions. You just do as I did. Simply take the "sleeping" muscles already present inside your own body — build them up — use them every day in walking, bending over, reaching, even sitting! Almost before you know it, you're covered with a brand-new suit of beautiful, rock-hard SOLID MUSCLE!

### SEND FOR FULL INFORMATION AND 7 DAY TRIAL OFFER.

So sure am I of how fast "Dynamic-Tension" works that I make this offer to you. Try my course for 7 days and in even that short period of time you will have results that not only you can feel, but your friends will notice, or it costs you nothing.

**WRITE NOW!**

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A MUSCULAR CHEST?



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POWERFUL LEGS?



MAGNETIC PERSONALITY?



BROAD SHOULDERS?



MORE WEIGHT?



...THEN MAIL THIS NOW!

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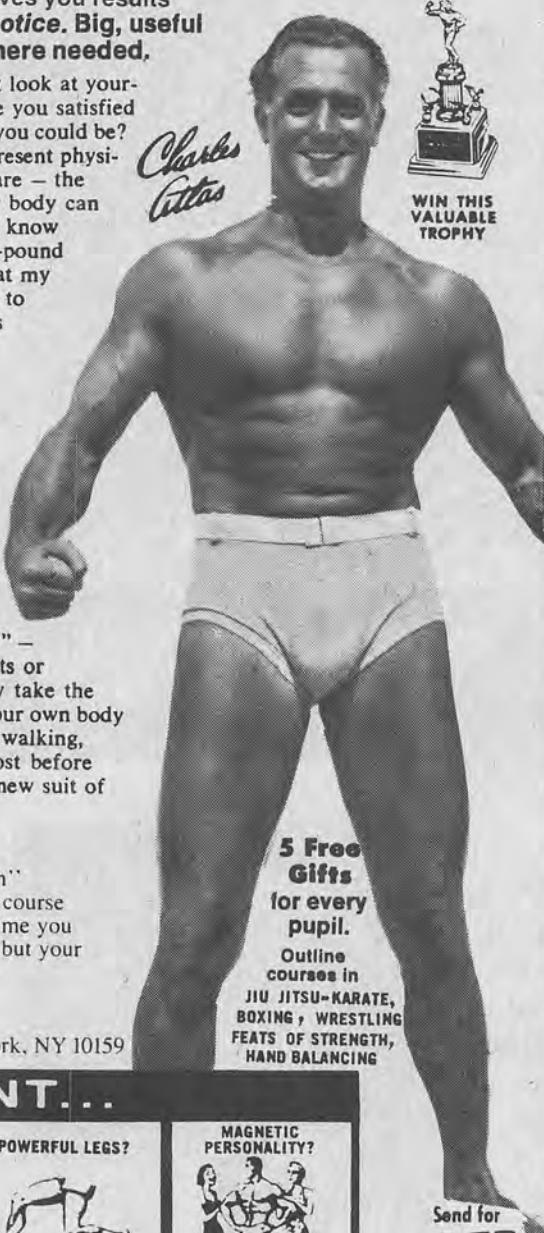
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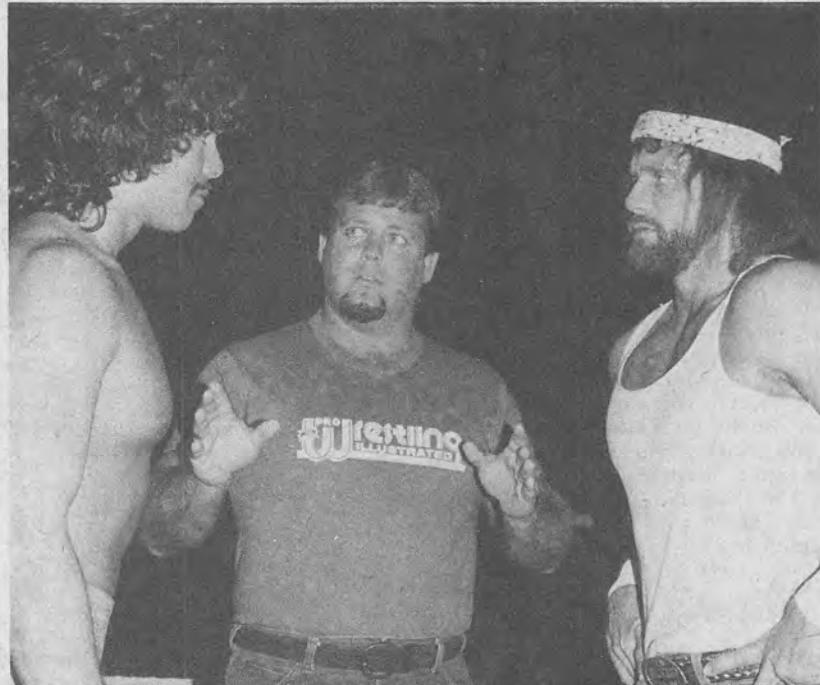
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TODAY!**



### THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'

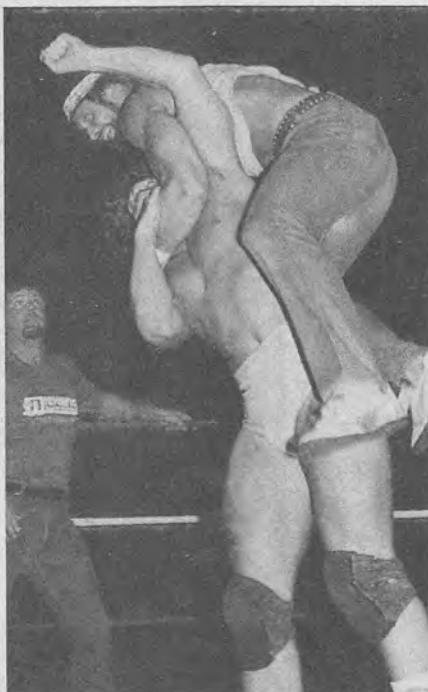


# BROTHER vs. BROTHER:



## The Night Randy Savage Battled Lanny Poffo

Randy Savage and Lanny Poffo are brothers. And like all brothers, the two share a love—and a rivalry—unique to siblings who compete in the same line of work. About a year ago, when the two were both wrestling in the Mid-Southern area, we rented the spacious Mid-Southern Coliseum just so the two could wrestle each other. There were no fans allowed in for this unsanctioned battle. Luckily, our photographer was there, so you can relive the excitement of this unique "brother vs. brother" match.



Taking a route of escape from a rear chinlock of which few wrestlers are capable, Poffo flips Savage over his shoulder.

LISTENING TO THE interview tape, we can discover exactly how the idea arose:

**LANNY POFFO:** Wrestling tells a man something about himself that no other sport can. You're all alone against the rest of the sport. Every man is your enemy. That's why Randy and I have to work hard at keeping our relationship as brothers intact. A wrestler's natural instinct is to regard everyone in the sport as a potential enemy, or at least as a potential challenger. No, let's not make it any sweeter. Every man is a potential enemy. You can have friends, and at times you'd go through a wall for them, but you never forget that someday you may be against them. Randy and I are constantly aware of tensions that could split us apart.

**RANDY SAVAGE:** I guess the reason  
*(Continued on page 8)*

## Aerobie

Holds World Record For Longest Throw.

MIT scientist: "When I dream it's an Aerobie." Throw 104 feet in January, 1985. Can you beat it? Flies over twice as far as longest ever Frisbee throw. Most people quickly find that they can throw Aerobie 100 to 200 yards with surprising ease. Developed by high tech scientist. Constructed of resilient plastic and soft rubber, making it easy to catch. 13" diameter, 4 ozs.

5044 Aerobie \$8.98



### Drinking Helmet

The Double Header. Atlast, hands free drinking! Sip your favorite beverages, in "stereo." Ideal for ball games, golf, course, just about anywhere. In rugged red plastic with 2 side drink holders & flexible vinyl straw. Adjustable fit.

5101 Drinking Helmet \$9.98

Lifetime Guarantee



### Deluxe Mini Lock Blade

Opens quickly and locks into position. Prevents blade from snapping shut. Fine quality steel, razor sharp and holds its edge, excellent for outdoor work, fishing, hunting or emergencies. Only 5 1/4" open, 2 1/4" closed. 2 for \$5.95.

2093 Mini Lock Blade \$2.98



### Smoke Grenades

Realistic looking. Produces mushroom clouds of smoke. Watch 'em head for the hills.

2011 Smoke Grenades, 12 for. \$3.50



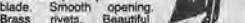
### Sportsman's Lock-Back Knife

7 1/2" open - 4" closed. Features special safety lock to prevent accidental closing.



Razor sharp tempered steel blade. Smooth opening. Brass rivets. Beautiful rosewood grained handle. Rustproof. Convenient pocket size. Includes leather sheath. If broken ever, we replace free! Lifetime Guarantee!

8072 Sportsman's Knife \$3.98



### Genuine Piranha

Mounted "murder fish" looks almost ready to swim away toward you. needle teeth ready to devour. Piranhas, roaming South American rivers in huge schools to water as they attack any animal who crosses their path. If you're a species that reminds you not to go near water south of the equator. Use to create some real "fish stories" for your friends!

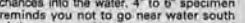
4812 Piranha \$9.98



### Million Dollar Bills

"If only I had a million..." Now you can take your dream one step further with these realistic looking bills. Sure to impress your friends with the realism. Makes you look like a big "shooter," surprising gift for anyone, must for collectors. Steel engraved, printed on banknote paper. Set of 5.

5801 Million Dollar Bills \$2.98



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Not a kit. Ready-to-run except for 2 "D" batteries (not included).

7608 Hover Craft \$9.98



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Guaranteed To Take Pictures! Black & White or Color! Uses standard 126 film. Takes 12 wallet size or 3 1/2" x 5 1/2" shots per cartridge. Get it developed yourself. Camera is only 2 1/2" x 4". Weighs less than 3 oz. Surprise, regular or candid pictures. Heavy-duty plastic construction. With eye-level viewfinder. Single action shutter with lens.

4900 Midget Camera \$2.98

4901 Kodak Black & White 126 Cartridge \$1.95

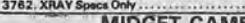
4902 Kodak Color 126 Cartridge \$2.95



### Blackhead Remover

Keep your skin free of blackheads. Patented vacuum action lifts blackheads out without pinching or squeezing. Gentle, Safe, Fast. Guaranteed. For men & women. 3/4".

4641 Blackhead Remover \$3.50



### Cherry Smoke Balls

Looks like it's really going to explode, then gives off huge clouds of TWO colored smoke. 2053 Smoke Bombs, 24 for \$4.98

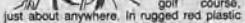
5044 Cherry Smoke Balls \$4.98



### How to Breakdance

You can do all the "Street dancer's" spins, flips & flashy footwork. Step-by-step instructions for Headspin, Handslide, Windmill, Backspring, Electric Boogie, Wave, Marqueen, Pop, Lock, King Tur, Language, Dress, History, creating your own style, crewfully illustrated, 128 pages.

1684 How To Breakdance \$2.95



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Real Police Style Handcuffs with Keys \$7.98

8043 Handcuffs with Keys \$7.98



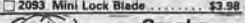
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\$1.98

Gives rugged, masculine appearance. Double strap for "flexible" look. Adjustable elastic band - one for each arm. Genuine leather.

2112 Each \$1.98

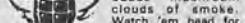
Set of 2, \$3.50



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Real Police Style Handcuffs with Keys \$7.98

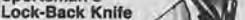
2062 Fun Snaps \$2.98



### Miniature Handcuffs Keychain

All metal. Sturdy link chain.

8161 Handcuffs Keychain \$2.98



### Pocket Spy Telescope

Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.

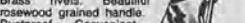
6724 Spy Scope \$2.98



### Joke Gum

Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.

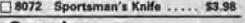
6724 Spy Scope \$2.98



### Garlic Gum

Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.

6724 Spy Scope \$2.98



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Pleasant surprise and bar-b-que gift. Includes new samples, factory surplus, special novelties, etc. Most worth much more.

9518 Deluxe Surprise Bargain \$2.98

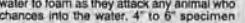


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Designed for toughest jobs. Use as knife, saw, hammer, hatchet, fish scale, 5" tempered steel blade. Razor sharp. Back of blade has sharp saw teeth. Laminated leather handle for positive grip. Stitched & riveted genuine leather sheath with leg ties. Sharpening stone included.

8420 Commando Knife \$11.98



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Overcome your awkwardness.

Become a confident, kissin' Nearly

250,000 copies sold.

Teaches you how to develop courage, overcome shyness, use body language. Step-by-step instructions help you communicate with members of the opposite sex, develop more stimulating and responsible relationships. With pictures.

1218 How To Kiss \$1.95

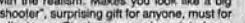


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Hatch entire family of exciting pets in 5 minutes. Just add "Instant Petts" to purified water. Watch them grow, play, etc. Easy to care for. Nothing else to buy. With year's supply of food.

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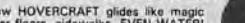


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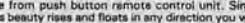
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# BROTHERS

(Continued from page 6)



I changed my last name was to be considered my own man. My father is Angelo Poffo, and the Poffo name is recognized world wide. I had to get a lot of confidence and a sense of my own self-worth before I wanted the world to know I was a Poffo. Lanny turned pro after me, and before he did my father, Lanny, and I sat down and established certain principles we'd have to live by. Even if we had opposite wrestling styles and were wrestling each other's friends, we decided we'd always try to stay close. It's a constant job for brothers to stay close in wrestling.

**LANNY POFFO:** Yeah, it's hard even for brothers to stay close. Look at the Oates brothers in Georgia. They're battling each other almost every night. There's a tension in all wrestler relationships because we all want to feel we're the better man. The question eats at you. That's why I think so many friendships in wrestling turn into feuds. The friends refuse to address

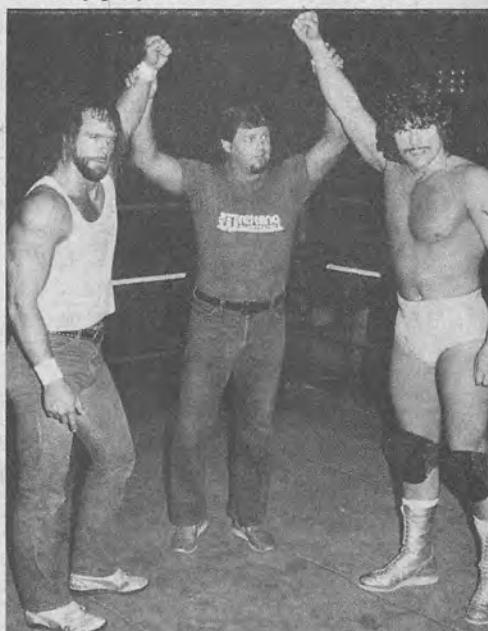


the problem and soon resentment grows. Then, the first time there's any real pressure, the two are at each other's throats.

**RANDY SAVAGE** (after a long silence): We never resolve it. It's always there. And it's always something that we have to guard against.

**LANNY POFFO:** Sometimes, I think

Fortunately, referee Jerry Lawler was prepared for the fierceness of the match. Savage lifts Poffo overhead (top left). Lawler tries to maintain order (above). Poffo springs from the turnbuckles with his backflip (left). Lawler declares a draw (below).



if we could just have a match against each other, without the crowd taking sides or anything but personal pride on the line, we could end the tension. Just get it out of our systems.

That's when we suggested that the two brothers wrestle for their own peace of mind. In exchange for renting

(Continued on page 46)

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Found Safe By The Advisory Review Panel Appointed By  
The Department Of Health And Human Service Of  
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##### AFTER 24 HOURS

- Chance of heart attack decreases

##### AFTER 48 HOURS

- Nerve endings start regrowing
- Ability to smell and taste things is enhanced

##### AFTER 72 HOURS

- Bronchial tubes relax, making breathing easier
- Lung capacity increases

##### WITHIN 2 WEEKS TO 3 MONTHS

- Circulation improves
- Walking becomes easier
- Lung function increases up to 30 percent

##### 1 TO 9 MONTHS

- Coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue, shortness of breath decrease
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- Body's overall energy level increases

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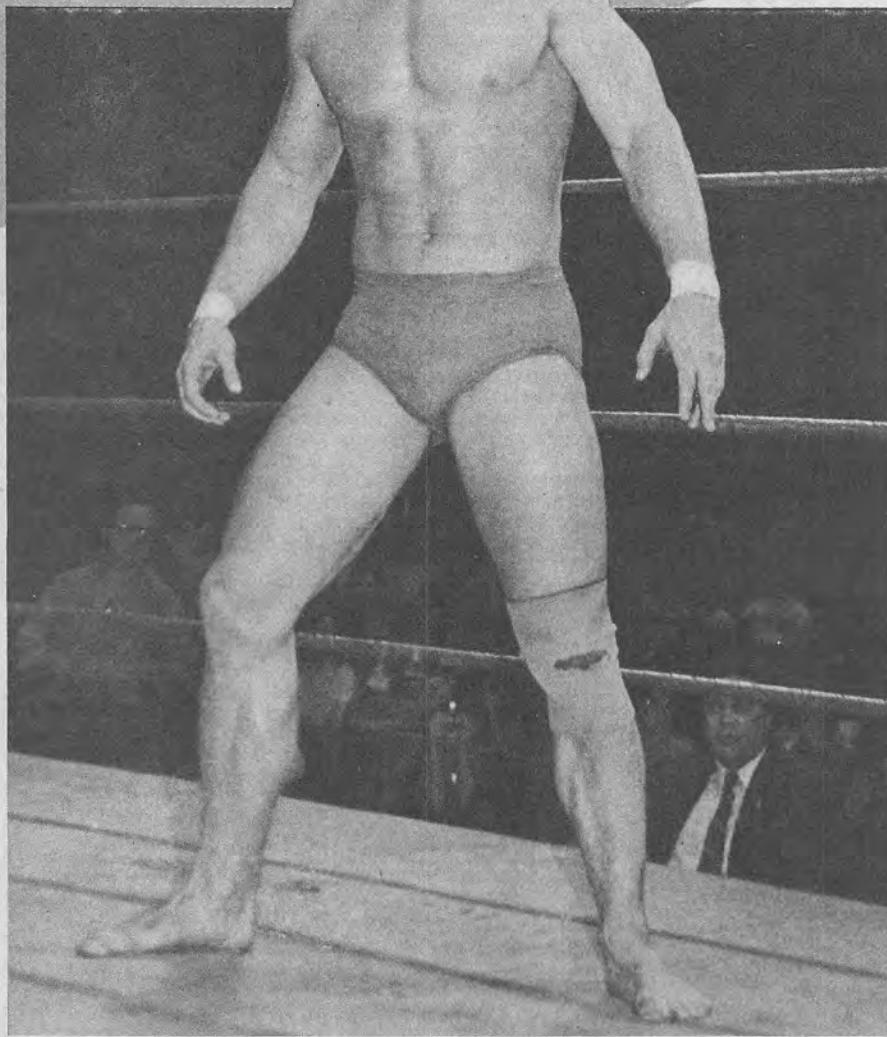
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But the facts speak for themselves.

- Fritz Von Erich: As father of the clan, Fritz held the WWA heavyweight title, the American heavyweight title, the Texas heavyweight title and just about every other regional belt in and around Texas.

- David Von Erich: Captured the Texas State title four times, the Southern heavyweight title, the United National belt, the Missouri State title, and, with his brother Kevin, held the U.S. tag team title, the World Class tag team title, and the All-Asian tag team title.

(Continued on page 12)

**As part of wrestling's most venerable family, Kevin Von Erich walked softly, letting his actions in the ring speak for themselves. Some thought, however, that Kevin walked too softly. According to his family, Kevin has changed, and his newly acquired aggressiveness promises to make life difficult for many of his old enemies**

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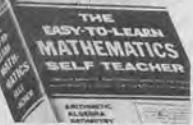
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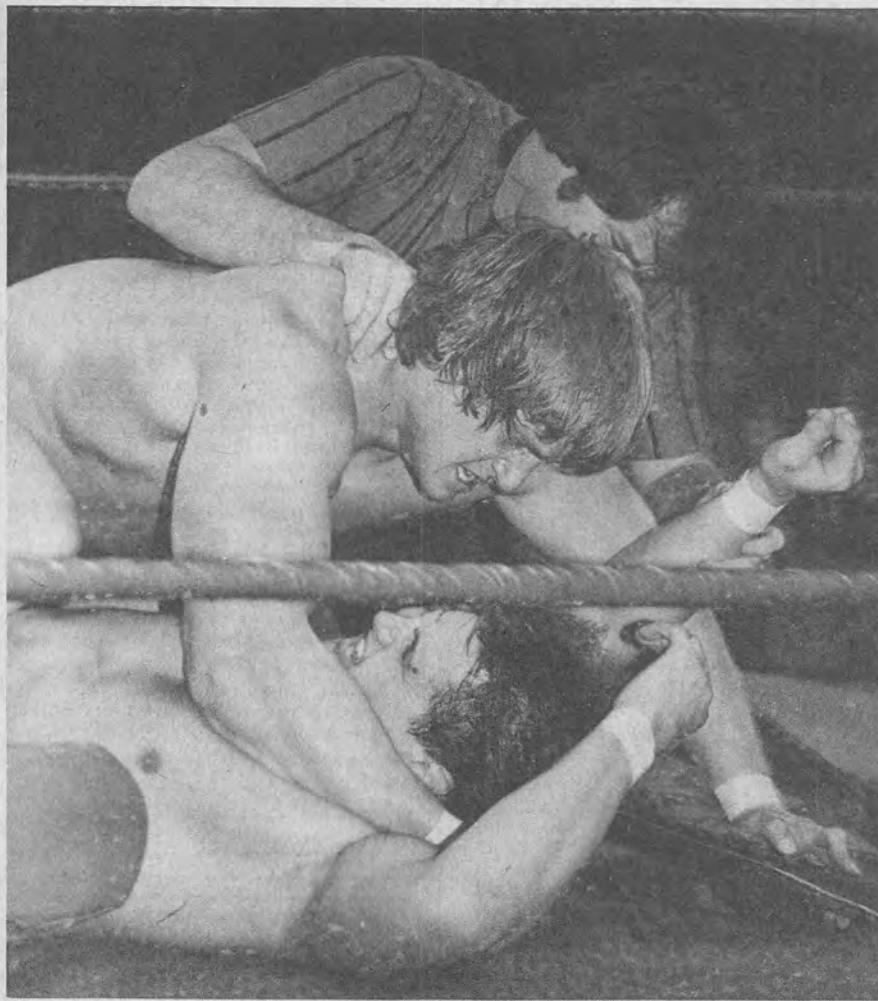


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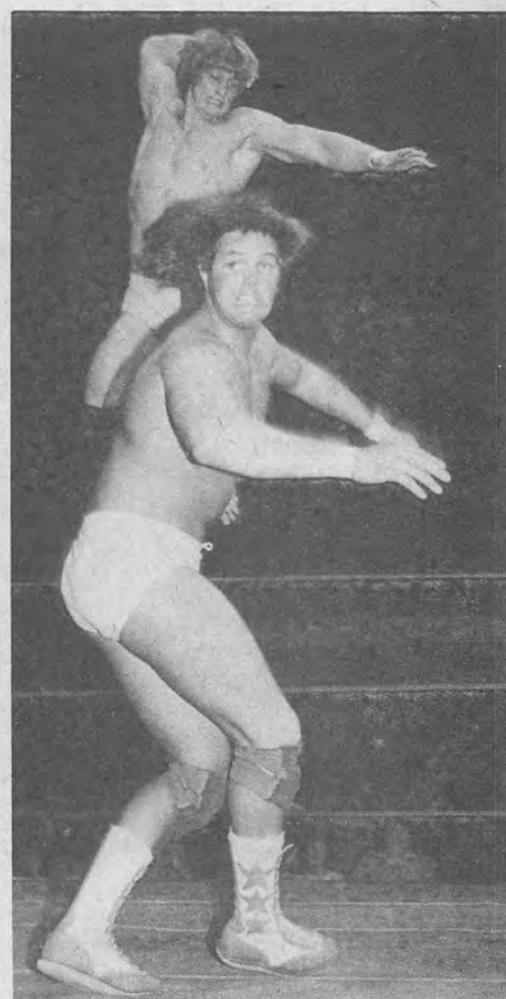
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# KEVIN VON ERICH

(Continued from page 10)



After prying the chair from Kevin Von Erich, referee David Manning now faces the tougher task of prying Kevin from Chris Adams (above left). If Chris doesn't know where Kevin is, he is going to quickly find out (above right). Adams leans as far back as he can to avoid a Von Erich right (below).



•Kerry Von Erich: Held the Missouri State heavyweight title, the American heavyweight title, and, of course, the NWA World heavyweight championship.

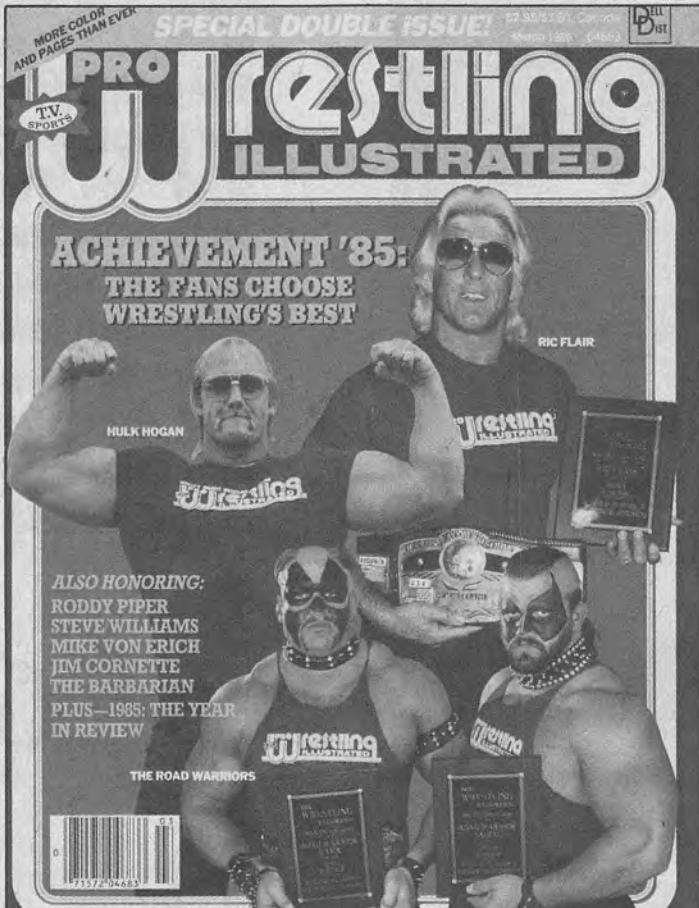
•Kevin Von Erich: Captured the Missouri heavyweight titles as a rookie, held the World Class American title, and held a share of the World Class tag team belt with David.

•Mike Von Erich: As 1984's Rookie of the Year, Mike captured the American title and presently holds the World Class six-man tag team title with Kevin and Kerry.

The family has set these standards without ever diminishing its image. Compromise is simply not in the Von Erich recipe for success. Never have they turned their backs on the fans, never have they violated the

(Continued on page 48)

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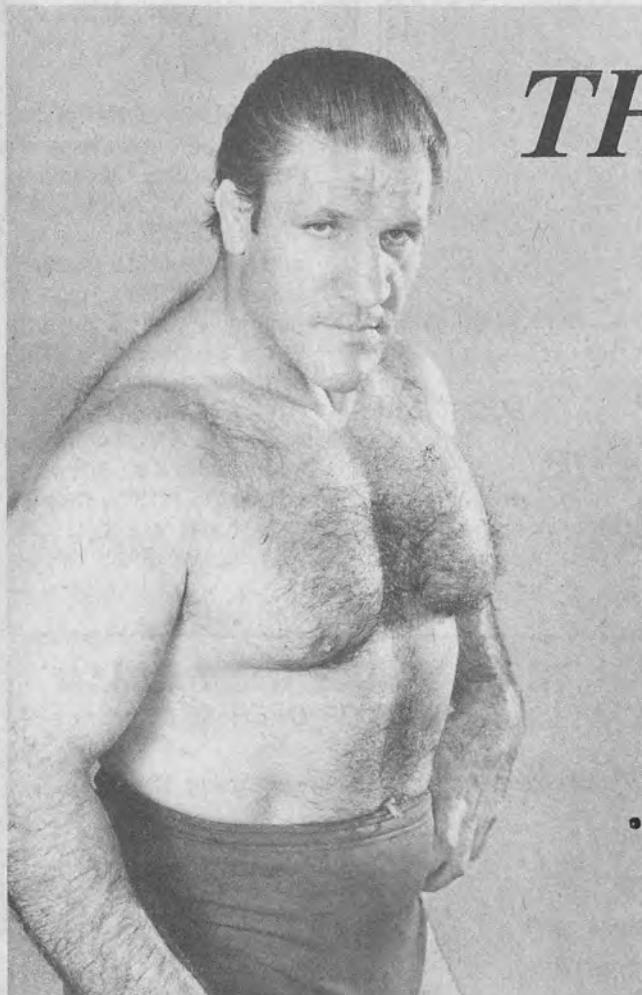
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# THE RETURN OF



Verne Gagne: nine-time AWA champ

**Verne Gagne and Bruno Sammartino have a lot in common. They are both among the greatest wrestlers of all time. They both have sons who have followed in their paths. They both retired at about the same time. And, coincidentally, they both made comebacks in 1985**



Bruno Sammartino: 11 years as WWF champ

## THE LEGENDS

THE EMPIRE STATE building isn't going to retire. Neither will the Grand Canyon, Mt. Rushmore, or the Mississippi River. The Statue of Liberty grew a few wrinkles, but with the proper care she'll soon return to the spotlight. And, in a related incident, Bruno Sammartino and Verne Gagne have announced their comebacks to the wrestling rings.

Cherished institutions don't fade into the sunset. They don't end up on some porch, rocking away their final hours. At some point they become transcendent of their frames and mouldings, their wood and steel weaves into the very fabric of American life, their spirits far reaching and everlasting.

Human beings can also be mythologized. To insult Babe Ruth was to spit

(Continued on page 18)

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August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvin, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.

May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniels.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Flair.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.

November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blasie.

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September 1983/Stories include: Zbysko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdul-Iah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

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November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

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January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

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April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Alba & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbysko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menaces, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

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February 1986/Stories include: Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Road Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

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**December 1976**/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

**January 1977**/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

**February 1977**/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

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**May 1977**/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

**June 1977**/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

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**October 1977**/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

**November 1977**/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

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**November 1978**/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

**December 1978**/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

**February 1979**/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.



## AUGUST 1985

**May 1979**/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

**July 1979**/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

**August 1979**/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

**October 1979**/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

**December 1979**/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

**January 1980**/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

**February 1980**/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

**March 1980**/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

**April 1980**/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

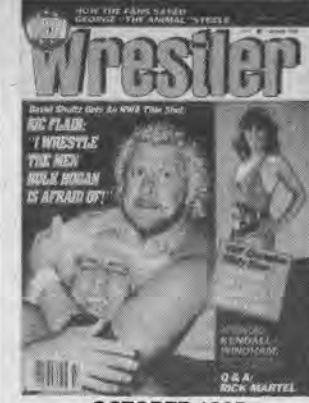
**May 1980**/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

**June 1980**/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

**August 1980**/Stories include: Valentine, Zbysko, Von Erich, Albano.

**September 1980**/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

**October 1980**/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.



## OCTOBER 1985

**November 1980**/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

**January 1981**/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

**February 1981**/Stories include: Zbysko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

**March 1981**/Stories include: Rich, Sammons, Blassie, Wrestling II.

**May 1981**/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

**June 1981**/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

**July 1981**/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

**August 1981**/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

**October 1981**/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

**December 1981**/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

**January 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

**March 1982**/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

**April 1982**/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

**May 1982**/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

**June 1982**/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

**July 1982**/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

**August 1982**/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

**September 1982**/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

**October 1982**/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

**November 1982**/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

**December 1982**/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

**January 1983**/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

**February 1983**/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

**March 1983**/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

**April 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

**May 1983**/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

**June 1983**/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

**July 1983**/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbysko.

**August 1983**/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

**September 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

**October 1983**/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

**November 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

**December 1983**/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbysko.

**January 1984**/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

**March 1984**/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

**April 1984**/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

**May 1984**/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

**June 1984**/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

**July 1984**/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

**August 1984**/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

**September 1984**/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

**October 1984**/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

**November 1984**/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

**December 1984**/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

**January 1985**/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

**February 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

**March 1985**/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

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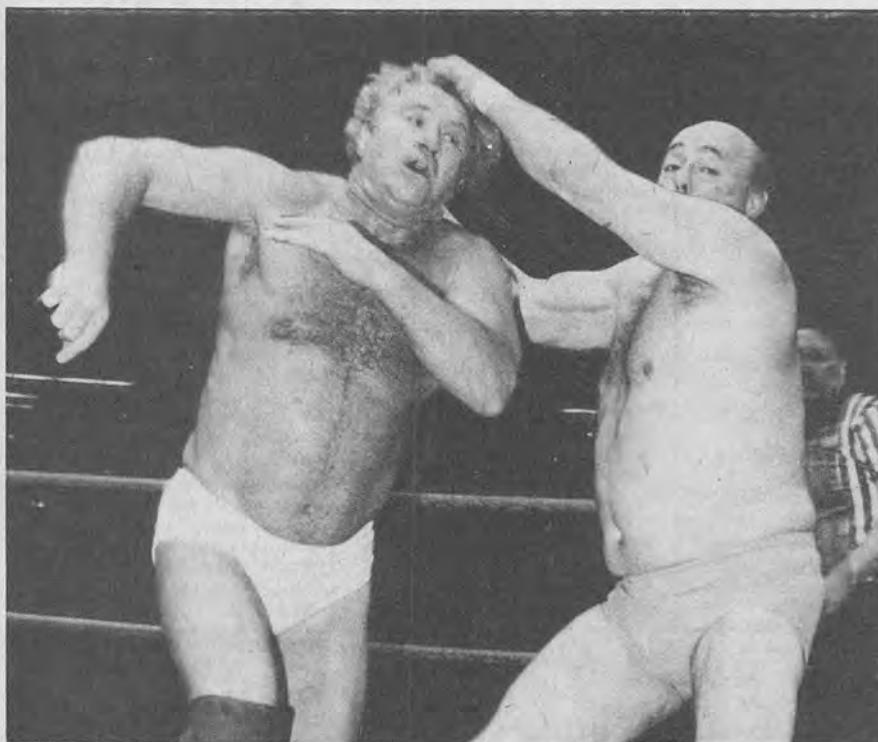
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# THE LEGEND

(Continued from page 14)



Above left: "Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino shows Johnny Valiant that he has not lost any leg strength. Brutus Beefcake doesn't dare interfere. Above right: Valiant and Beefcake have a skull session, courtesy of Bruno Sammartino.



Once Verne Gagne climbed into the ring against Nick Bockwinkel, it was hard to believe that there was ever a gap in their years-long feud. The hatred both men have for each other was apparent from the start.

on the flag. Lou Gehrig was not only a tremendous ballplayer but became, through his death, a national monument to courage and endurance. And, too, "Win one for the Gipper" became as much a rallying cry off the field as it was on it.

From a fan in New York: "When Bruno would trot into the ring everything would be okay. I knew that he would take care of business. I knew he'd never let us down."

From a fan in Minneapolis: "I grew up knowing only Verne Gagne as

champion. What a fair and honest and brave champion. When he retired, I felt as if a part of my childhood died. Wrestling lost a little of its lustre for me."

When Bruno wrestled his final match, against George Steele in 1982, coming on the heels of Gagne's retirement in 1981, wrestling was sent reeling from the loss of two of its biggest stars ever. Between them, Sammartino and Gagne had logged over 45 years in the ring, and more than half of them were spent as champions. The legacy they left reminded one of the Boston Celtics' eight consecutive basketball titles, Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak, and Bob Beamon's 29' 2" long jump—records to be marveled at but never again equaled. Although retired, Sammartino and Gagne remained the embodiment of professional wrestling at its best. To the fans, they could never really be gone, as their legends haunted arenas throughout the country.

Concerning their retirements, both men seemed quite content when they announced to the public that they would wrestle no more. Gagne was quoted as saying, "I've had a marvelous career. I've made many friends and have wonderful memories, but now all

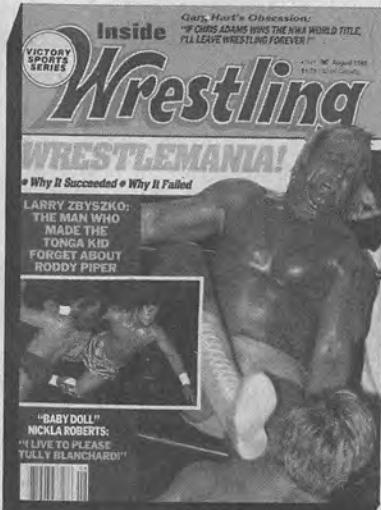
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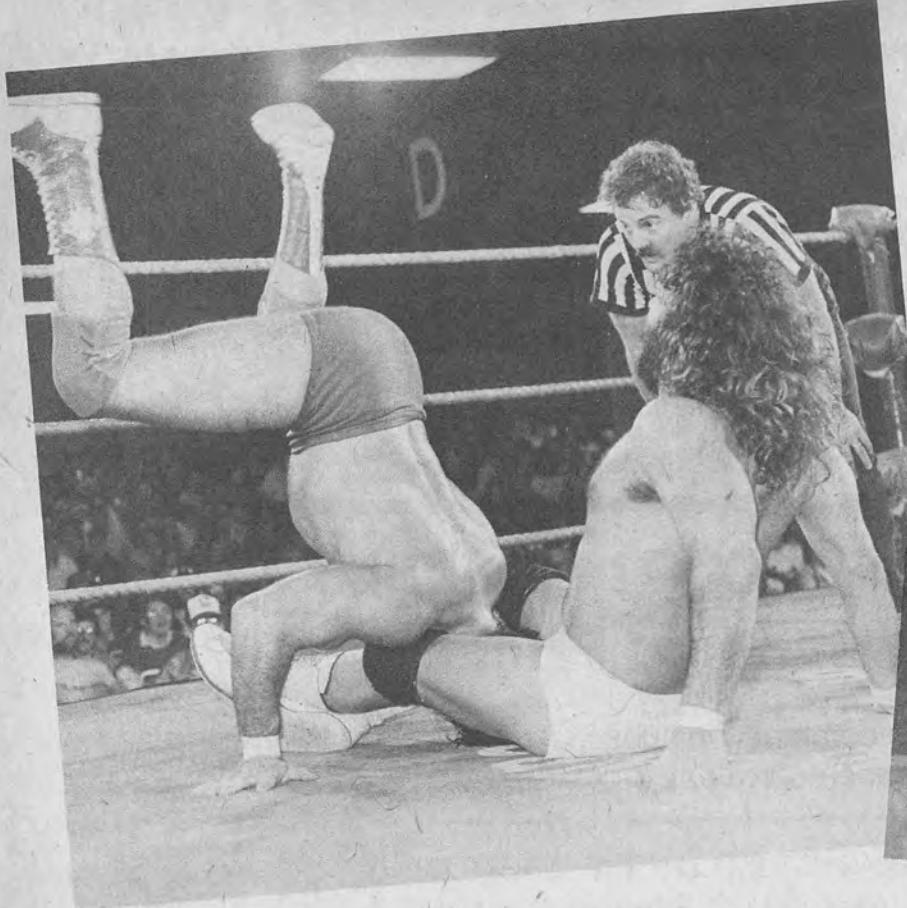
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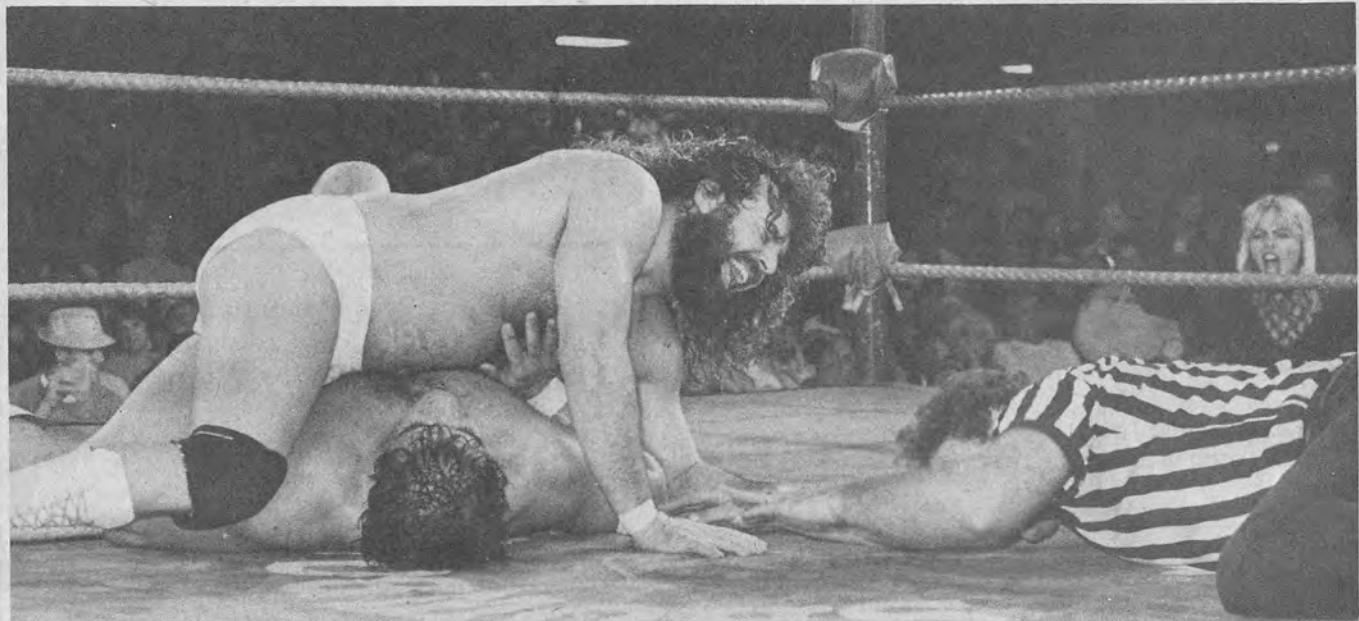
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# WOULD RICK MARTEL FOR PRECIOUS?



*If taking on the rulebreaking Jim Garvin and his interfering valet isn't enough of a problem, AWA champion Rick Martel has to also contend with Garvin's psychological ploys.*



# TRADE HIS AWA TITLE

**Jim Garvin  
Says Yes!**

*Soft-spoken Rick Martel has earned the respect of the wrestling world by letting his wrestling speak for him. Now the AWA World champion is facing the challenge of Gorgeous Jim Garvin and his dangerous valet, Precious, a duo determined to snatch Martel's belt by focusing the champ's attentions on things having nothing to do with wrestling. Can Jim Garvin think his way to the championship?*

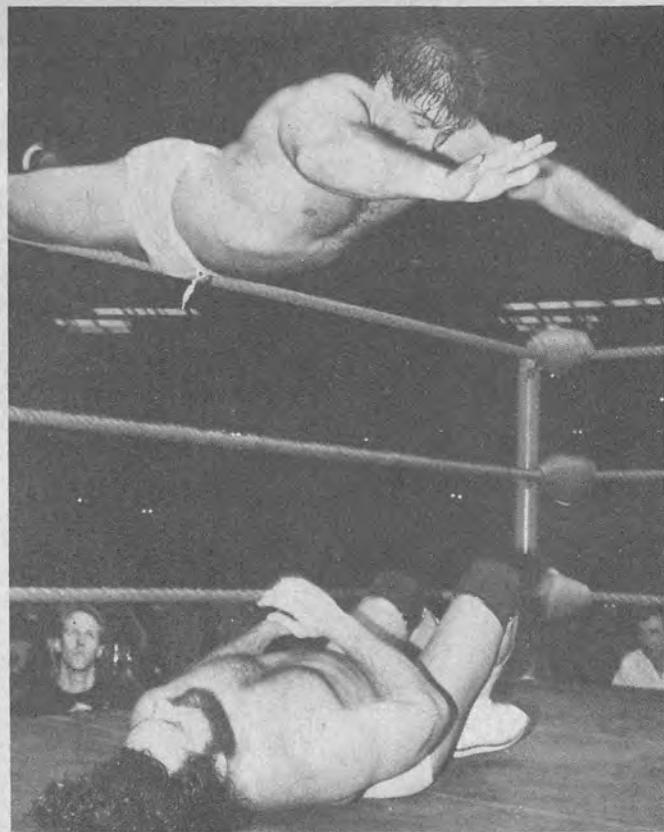
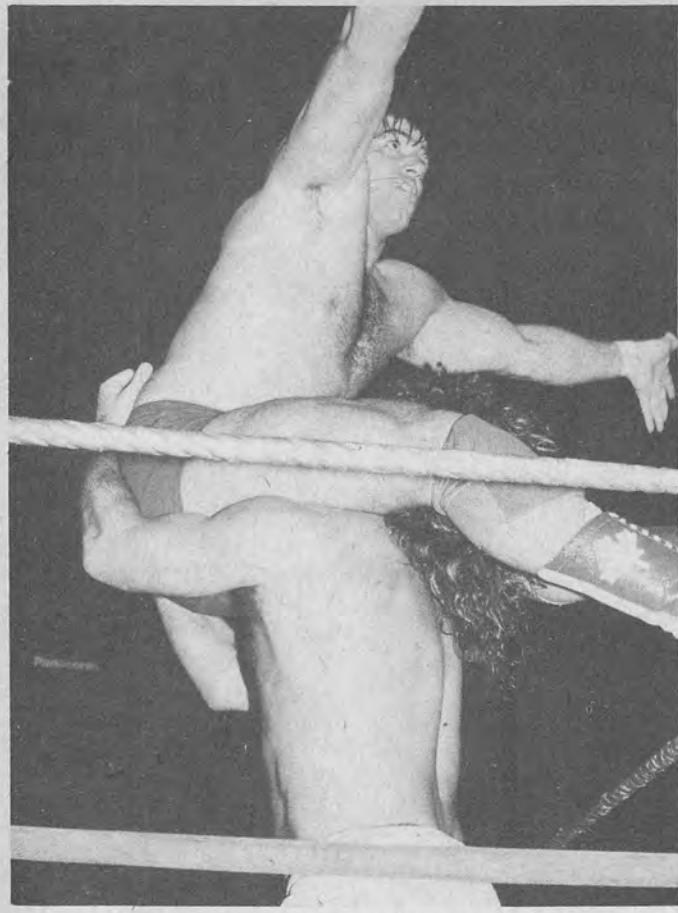
RICK MARTEL TOSSED his clothes into a duffel bag, threw on a warmup suit, a pair of sunglasses, and made a quick exit out a side door of the dressing room. He was in his car and out the lot before anyone could ask him a question. His back-patting fans were nowhere in sight. Gone was his characteristic match-winning grin. His usually well-catered postmatch press conference was cancelled. Though he had just successfully defended his AWA

World title, Martel had the look of a loser. Though he had just turned back the challenge of a wily and unpredictable Jim Garvin, Martel was the one who left the arena troubled.

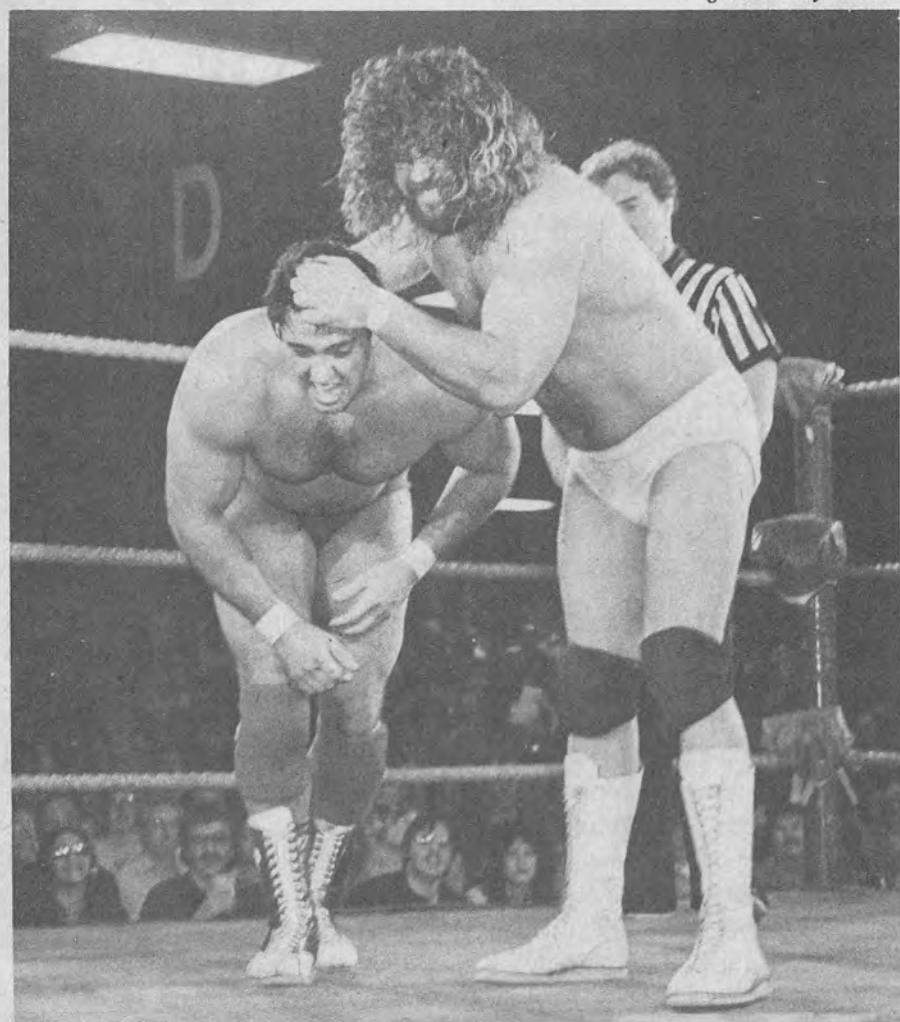
The other dressing room spoke a different story. Reporters milled about, snapping questions in between bites of cold cuts and goblets of champagne. The buzz of celebration filled the room. Clearly, the roles were reversed. Jim Garvin, who by all accounts was soundly beaten

only moments before, was carrying on as if he had just captured the World championship. His valet, the lusty Precious, danced exotically about the room. After 10 minutes of continued merriment, Garvin mounted a podium and requested quiet. He rasied his arms pontifically and began:

"Friends, ladies and gentlemen of the free press, beloved companion and guiding beacon of my life, my darling Precious, let me introduce



*Left: Martel mounts Garvin's shoulders and will arch his back, flipping his challenger to the mat. Above: Martel attempts a flying vault. Below: Garvin grabs Rick by the hair and runs him through the ropes.*



myself. My name is Gorgeous Jim Garvin and I am the next AWA heavyweight champion."

At the announcement, many of the reporters returned to their sandwiches, having heard the braggardly claims of better men than Jim Garvin for years. Precious, however, beamed as if she were in the presence of a god. Gorgeous Jim, having allowed his initial words to sink in, continued:

"The reason I am to be the next champion of the world has nothing at all to do with wrestling, however." Here Garvin paused, giving the reporters a moment to drop their sandwiches and scramble for their notebooks and recorders. He went on, in complete control of the room. "It should be clear to all you professional critics and analyzers that I am on my way to the title. The only thing that can—and has—stopped me is the ugly collusion that exists between Rick Martel, the promoters, and the referees. They will not let me win the title in the ring. Tonight, as you all saw, I had Martel pinned

*(Continued on page 52)*

# TOWERS OF POWER

# PUZZLE

Some of the most powerful, best-built athletes in the world are professional wrestlers. In this puzzle, we have hidden the names of 12 men who can truly claim to be powerfully good wrestlers. Names are hidden vertically, horizontally, and diagonally. Good luck!

Time Limit: 12 Minutes

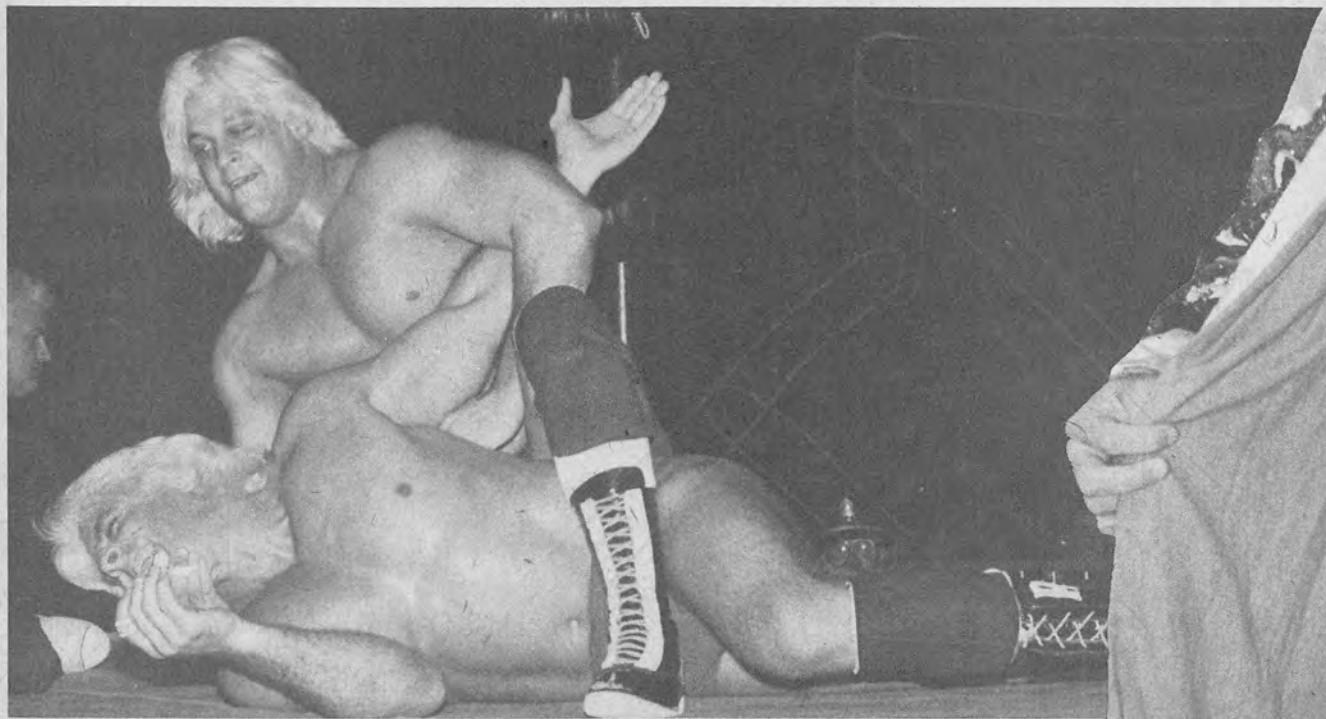
## NAMES HIDDEN IN THE PUZZLE:

- ANIMAL • HAWK • HAYNES • HOGAN • KHRUSHCHEV • KOLOFF
- ORNDORFF • REED • RUDE • SAVAGE • STEAMBOAT • VON ERICH •

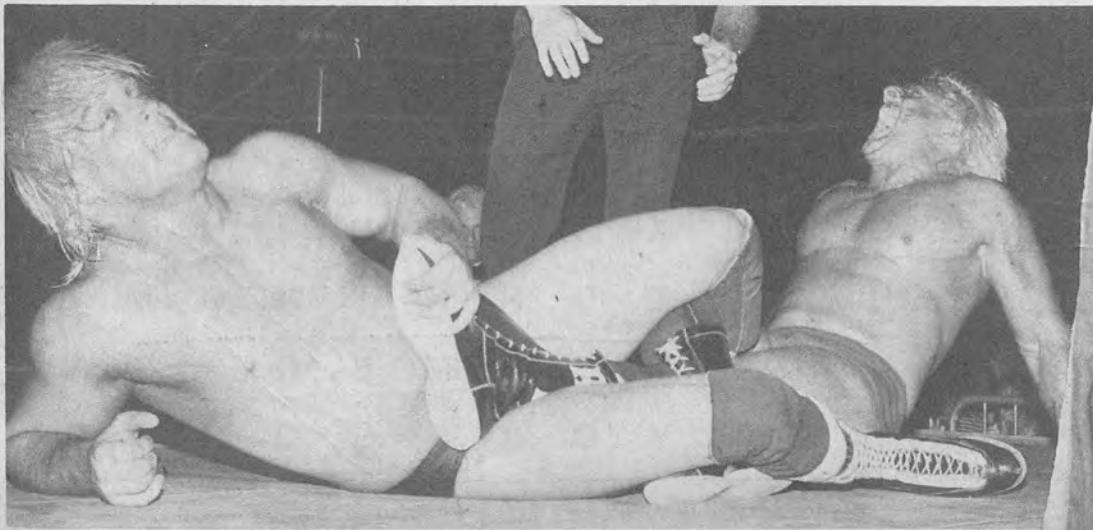


(Answers on page 57)

# BUDDY LANDELL: "WHY DOESN'T RIC FLAIR LIKE ME?"



Ric Flair respects Buddy Landell's talent, as well he should. But even if imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, he doesn't care for the man one bit. Landell tries to turn the champion over for a pin attempt (above). Buddy's figure-four is good, but it is not great—and it will not make Flair submit (below).





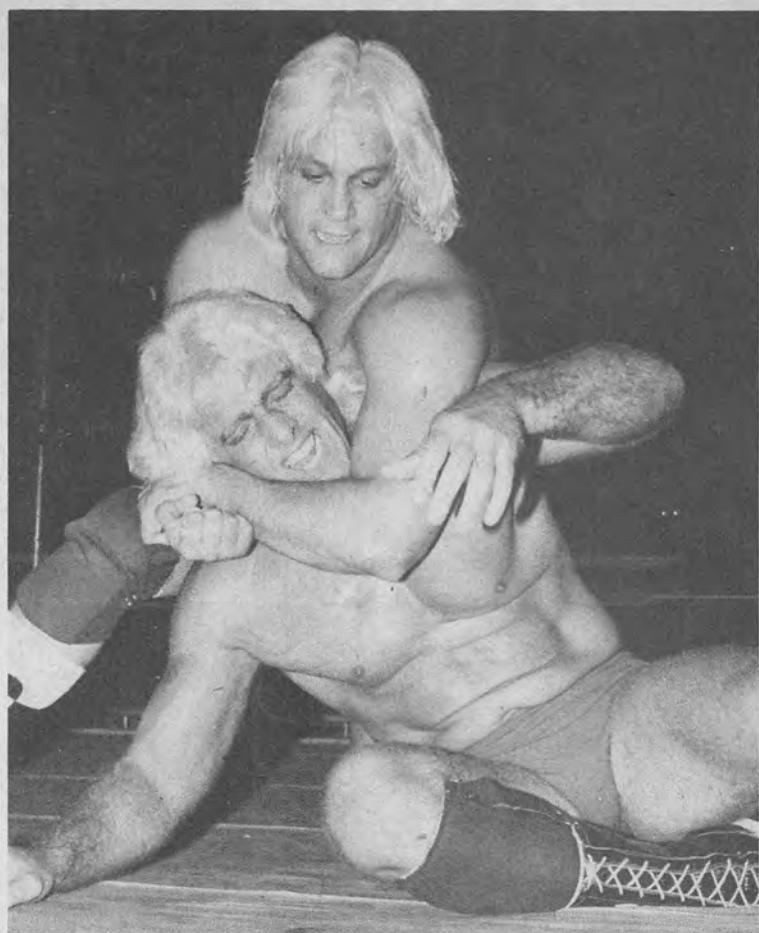
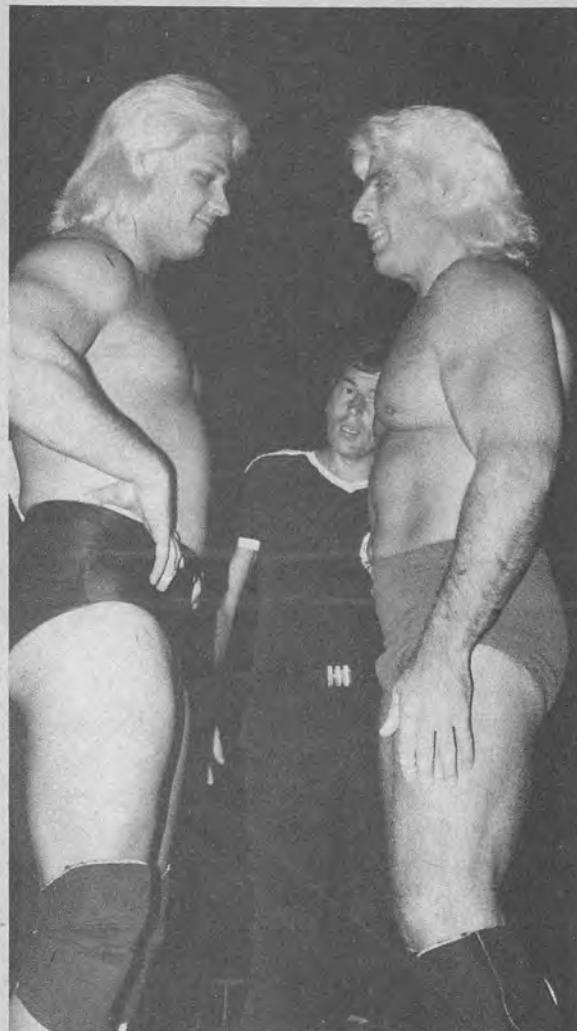
**Buddy Landell calls himself "Nature Boy," not coincidentally the same nickname Ric Flair uses. Landell claims he's perfected a figure-four leglock that is better than Flair's. Landell's trying to emulate Flair's playboy lifestyle. And he can't understand why the NWA World champion doesn't care for him**

**By Craig Peters**

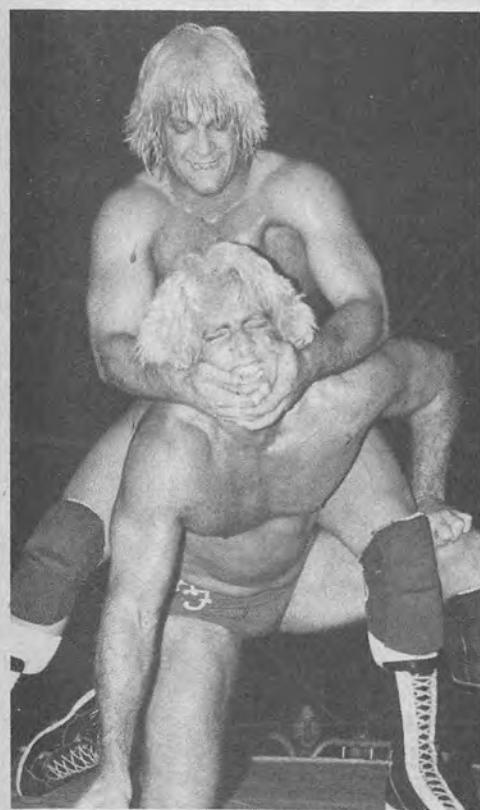
**W**HEN I WAS sent to the Carolinas to interview Ric Flair for the November 1985 cover story in our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, I was elated. Flair had agreed to take me to dinner, which meant champagne and filet mignon in the best restaurant available.

When I was sent back to the Carolinas to interview Buddy Landell for this magazine, I was . . . well, let's put it this way: I took the assignment as an opportunity to contrast and compare Landell with Flair. Landell claims to pattern his ring style and his lifestyle after Flair. This seemed like a good opportunity to check it out for myself.

Landell showed up at my hotel riding in the back seat of a Cadillac. His manager, J.J. Dillon, was driving but said that he was not going to join us for dinner; he had another appointment across town. I climbed in the back seat next to Landell, and made a mental note about the relative lack of space: Landell and Dillon both had travel bags on the floor, and it was kind of difficult for me to stretch my legs comfortably—I'm 6'1" and have a tough time in automobile back seats as well as train and airplane seats.



*During prematch instructions before one match, Landell looked at the champion with a scowl. Then Flair smiled and so did Landell (left). At that point, Flair knew the match would be his. Buddy applies a rear chinlock (above).*



(By contrast, it should be noted, Flair picked me up at my hotel in a chauffered stretch limousine, fully equipped with television, cassette stereo, and bar.)

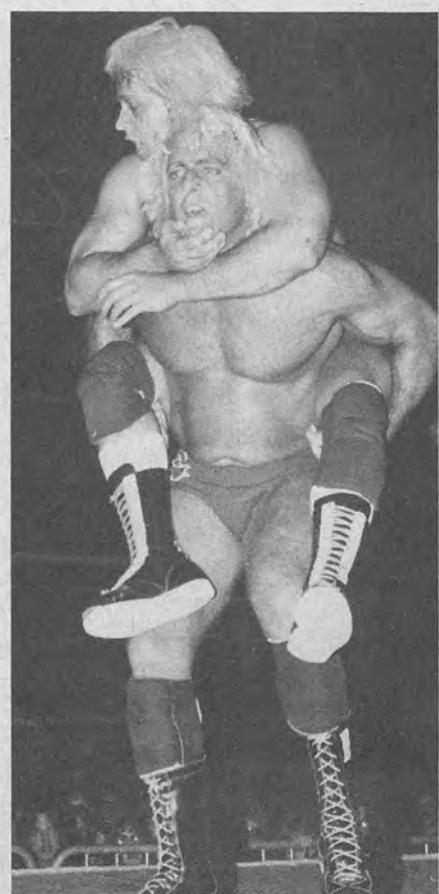
"Isn't this a great car?" Dillon said as we rode down the highway to the restaurant. "Comfortable as anything, and we get a price break because we're leasing instead of renting by the day."

"Shut up, J.J.!" barked an angry Landell. I remained silent throughout the ride, deciding to wait until we got to the restaurant to begin my interview.

When Dillon stopped the car, we were in front of an Italian restaurant. It was a good thing Dillon wasn't staying for dinner, because the parking lot was jammed. When Landell and I walked into the restaurant, there were about a dozen people waiting for tables.

Landell craned his neck and  
*(Continued on page 54)*

Landell latches on to Flair's chin (above), but when the champion gets to his feet, Buddy doesn't know what to do (opposite right).



# Tag Team Wrestling's New Wave



## THE SECRET BEHIND THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS' HIT STYLE

By Joseph Bua

ROBERT GIBSON'S HARSH scream cut through the air and sent a chill down Rick Morton's spine.

"Watch out, Rick, behind you!"

Morton had just rebounded off the ring ropes when the frantic cry reached his ears. He dug in on his heels, and the muscles in his thighs strained to absorb the enormous momentum of his body. Pivoting on his left heel, Morton turned and looked over his shoulder. He positioned himself for a

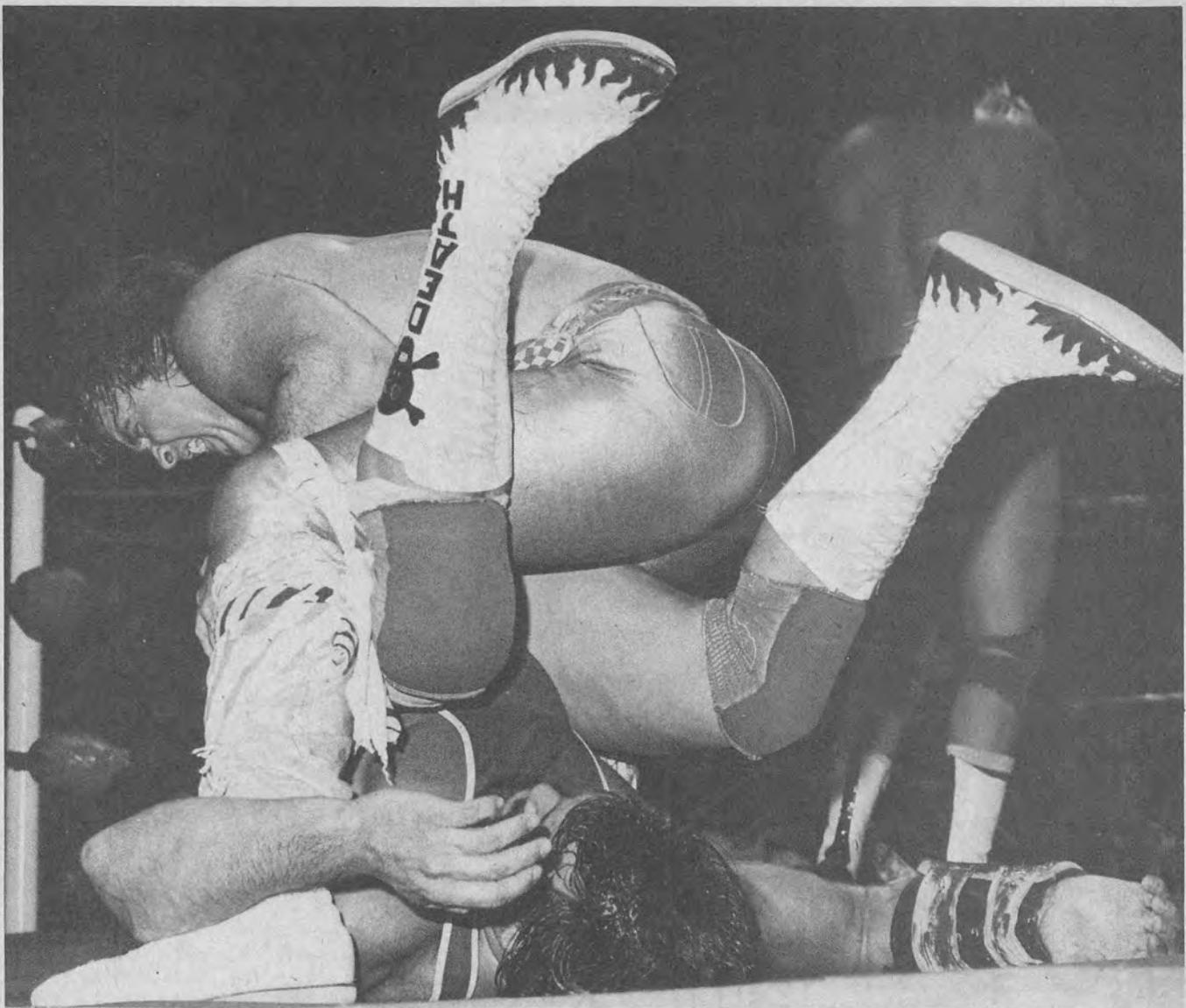
hip toss, tagging off to his partner just as Gibson vaulted himself over the top rope. Completing the hip toss movement, Morton left the ring as Gibson hurled himself in the air for a flying bodypress.

"Beautiful, Bobby, beautiful. Smooth and quick, that's just what we want."

"Hey, we've got it brother, and it keeps getting better."

Morton and Gibson shook hands

**Rick Morton and Robert Gibson—The Rock 'n' Roll Express—have forged a dynamic tag team style that has brought them widespread fame and the Mid-South tag team title. In this exclusive story, Morton and Gibson discuss their unique winning formula**



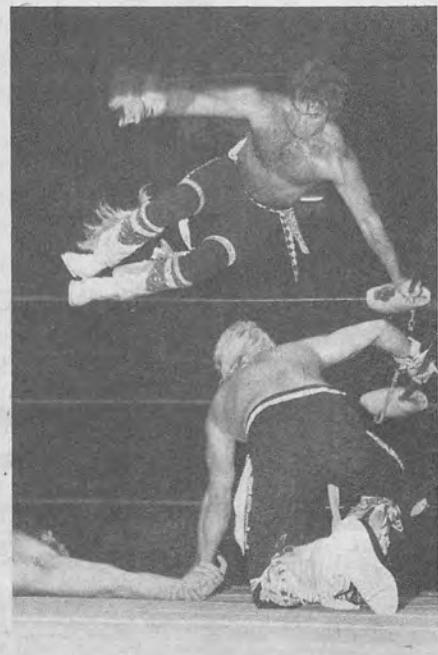
*Robert Gibson surprises Steve Williams with a quick rollup, and only "Dr. Death's" powerful legs will save him from a pin (above). Rick Morton zeroes in on a fallen Krusher Khrushchev (below left). Gibson vaults over the top rope and comes down on Ivan Koloff's arm, which is held to the mat by Morton (below right).*

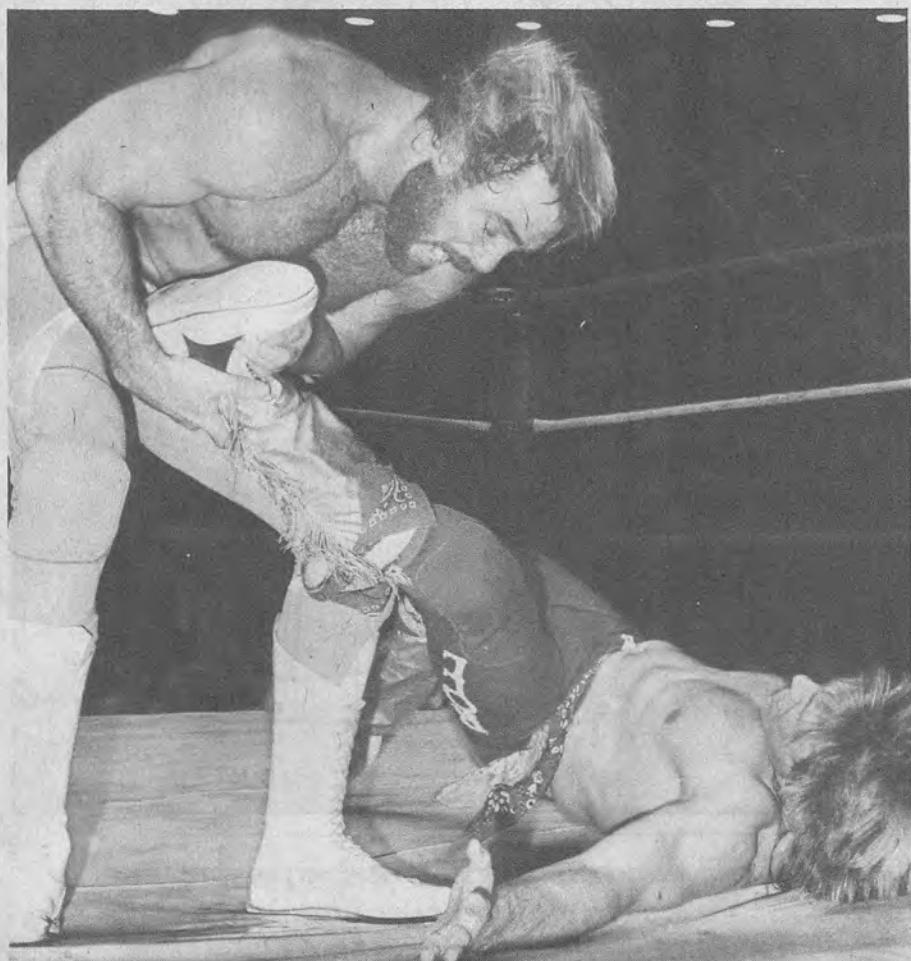
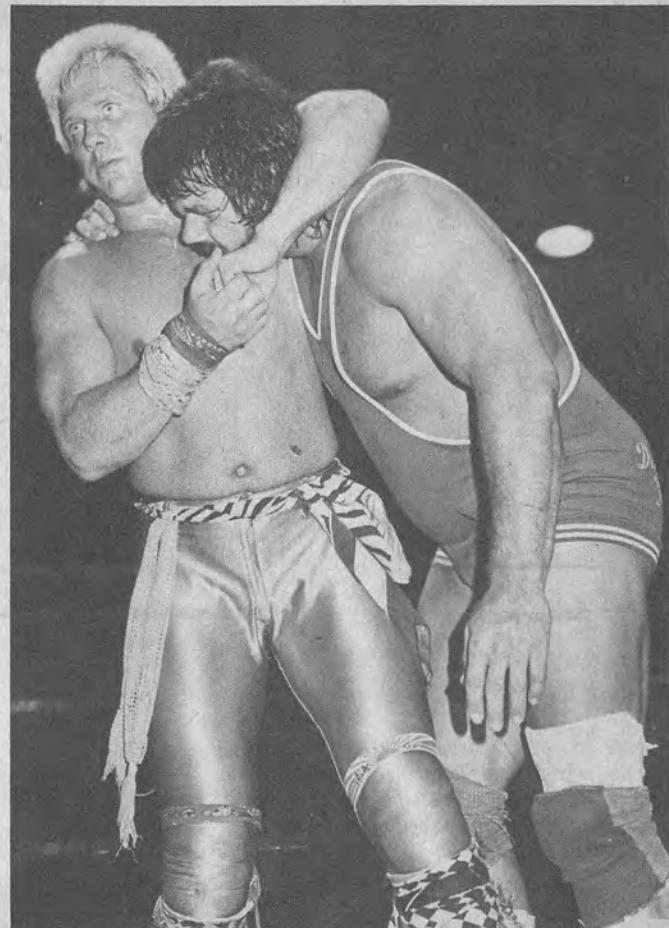
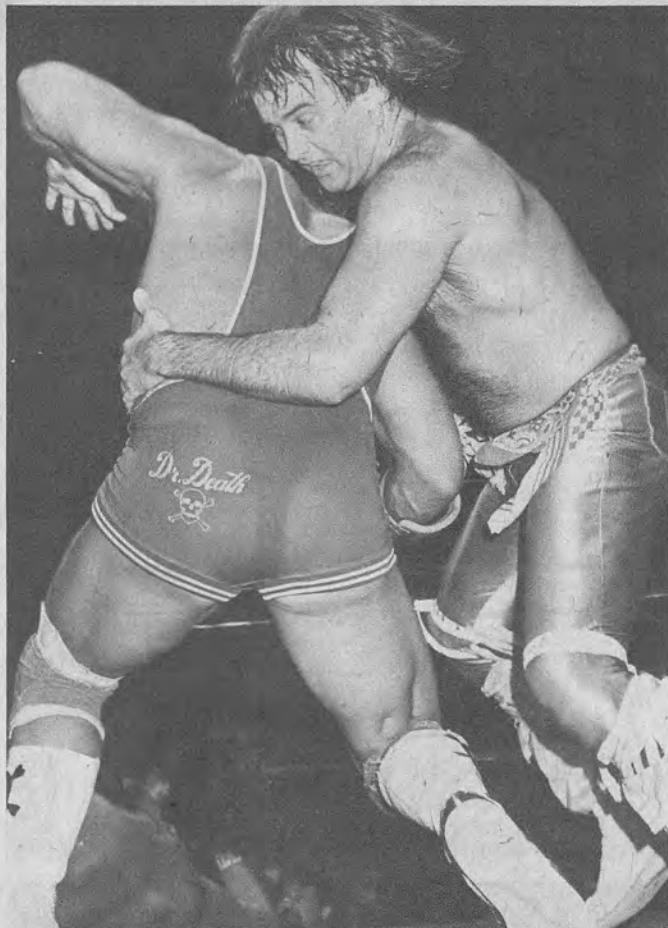
and stepped off the ring apron to the slickly polished wood floor of the otherwise deserted gym. There were no opponents there to sneak up behind them, no fans to cheer for them, no one else except for me, a lone reporter in the front row of a room full of empty seats.

I was privileged this day to be witnessing one of the daily training sessions of The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

"Is this how you always train?" I asked. "Don't you ever work with another team in the gym?"

"Sometimes we do," Morton said, "but there's nothing special about that. Every tag team trains that way. Not that there's anything wrong with it, but we have some unusual ways of training





Gibson, more noted for his speed than his strength, tries to stop Williams from getting where he wants to go (top left). Morton headlocks Dr. Death, looking for Gibson's signal to tag out (above right). A Fabulous Ones-Rock 'n' Roll Express match (Steve Keirn vs. Morton, left) is a rare and beautiful sight to behold.

and we wanted you to see some of them."

I asked them about the advantage of training without sparring partners.

"See, a lot of sparring partners simply aren't of the talent that they can push you to your limits," Gibson explained. "When we work like you just saw, we're doing things off the tops of our heads. We're creating a hypothetical match as we go along."

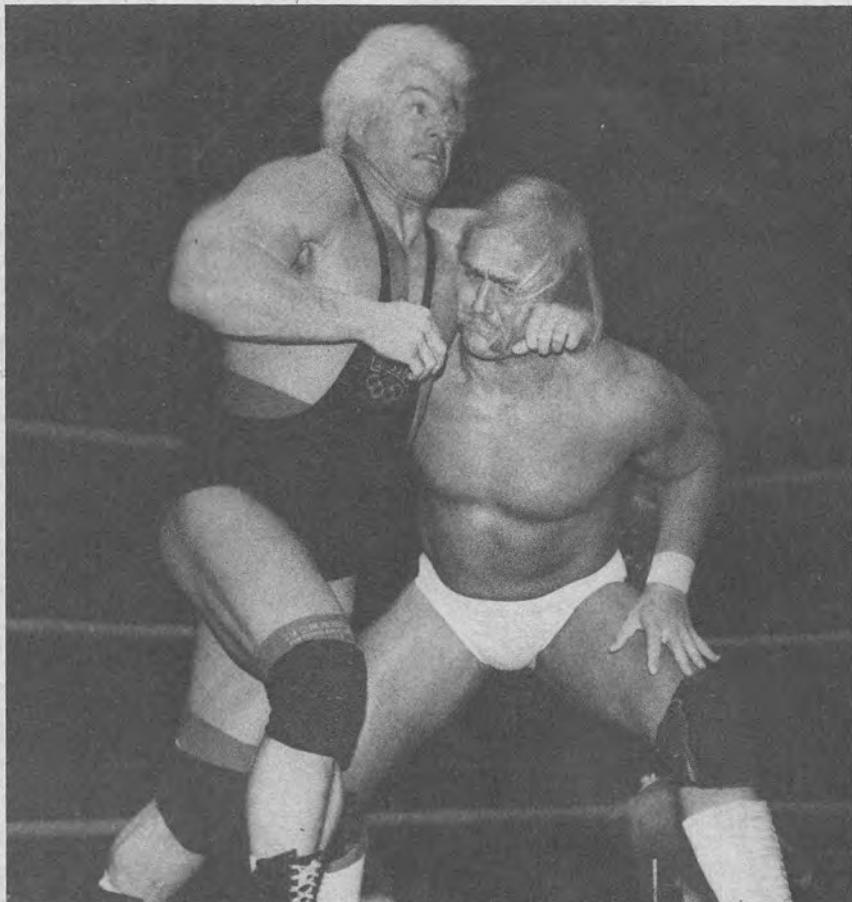
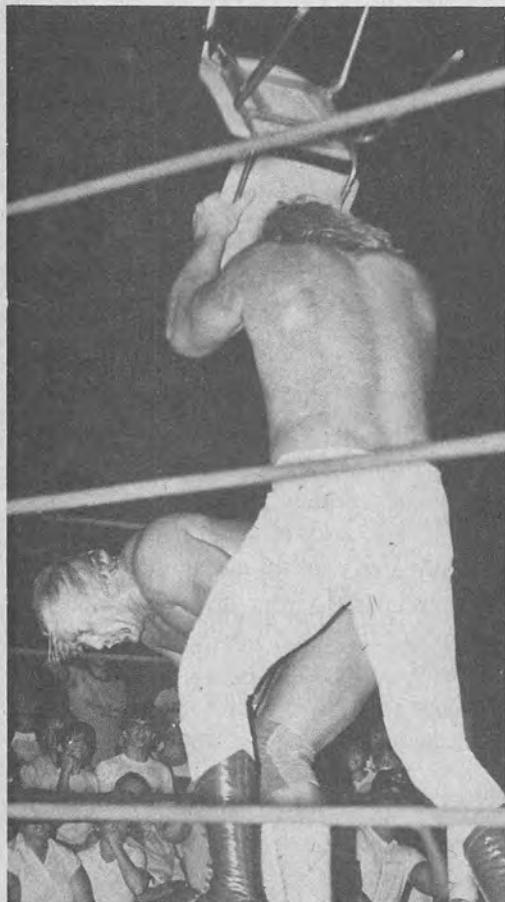
"In that series of moves you just saw," Morton continued, "I had no idea that Bobby was going to create the element of danger behind me at that moment. So when he called out, I had to react instantaneously to that danger, without really knowing what it might have been."

(Continued on page 56)

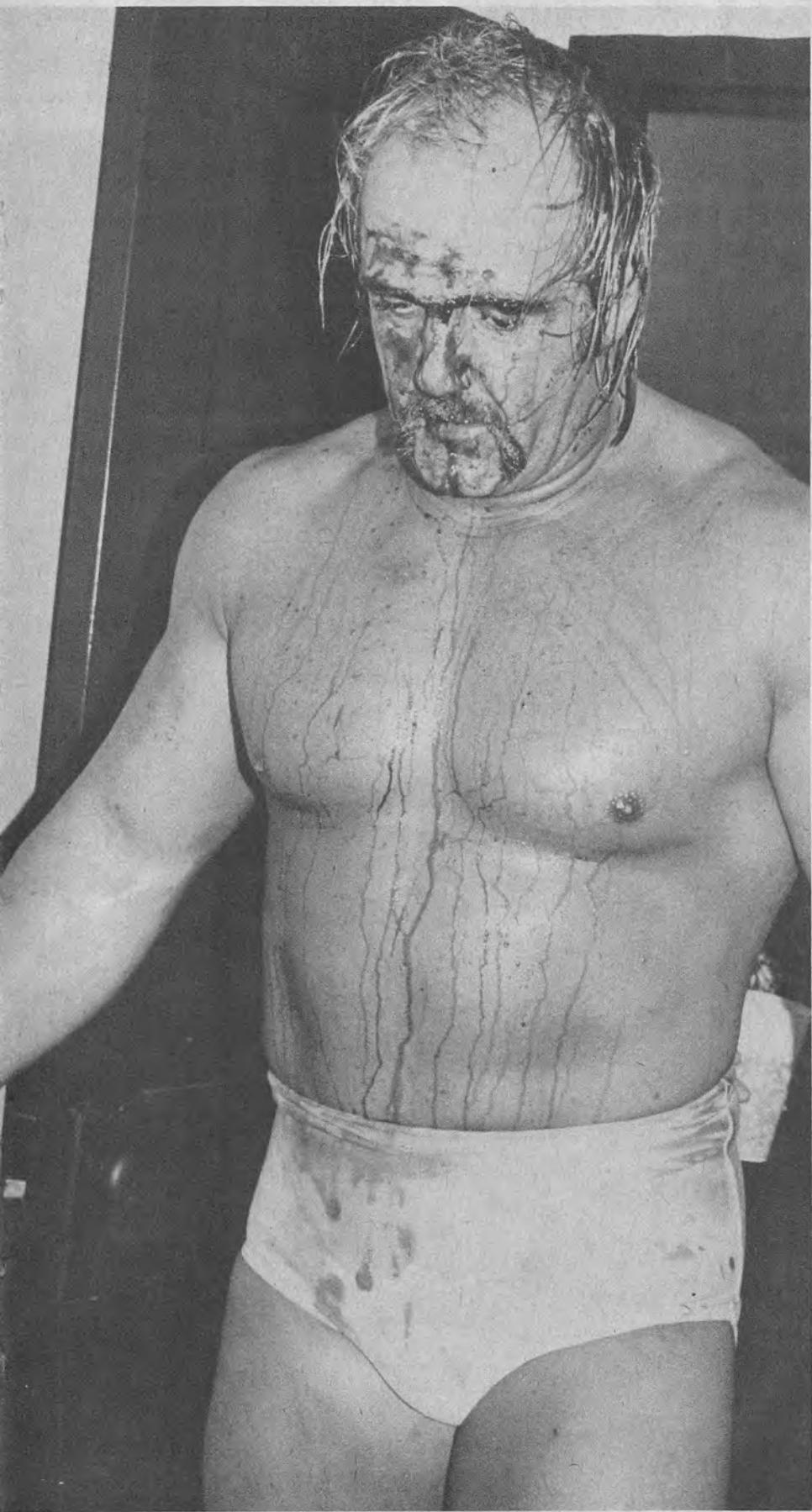
# HULK HOGAN:

## Willing To Pay The Price To Be WWF Champion

As a 6'8" champion, Hulk Hogan feels obligated to take on the largest and most powerful men that come his way. Men like Big John Studd (right and below) and Ken Patera (below right) make the life of the WWF champion very difficult.



***He's the WWF heavyweight champion and an international superstar. But his life is not all title victories, magazine covers, and opening-night galas. This is an exclusive look into the grueling life of a celebrated champion***



Hulk Hogan stumbles back to his dressing room having taken another pounding and spilled some more blood, but also having preserved his cherished WWF championship.

THE BELL RINGS and thousands of fans in the arena leap to their feet to applaud Hulk Hogan's most recent WWF title defense. A group of teenagers by ringside scream their approval as Hogan thrusts the championship belt into the air. Hogan's theme song, "Eye of the Tiger," blasts through the arena sound system. The celebration of another successful title defense is in full swing.

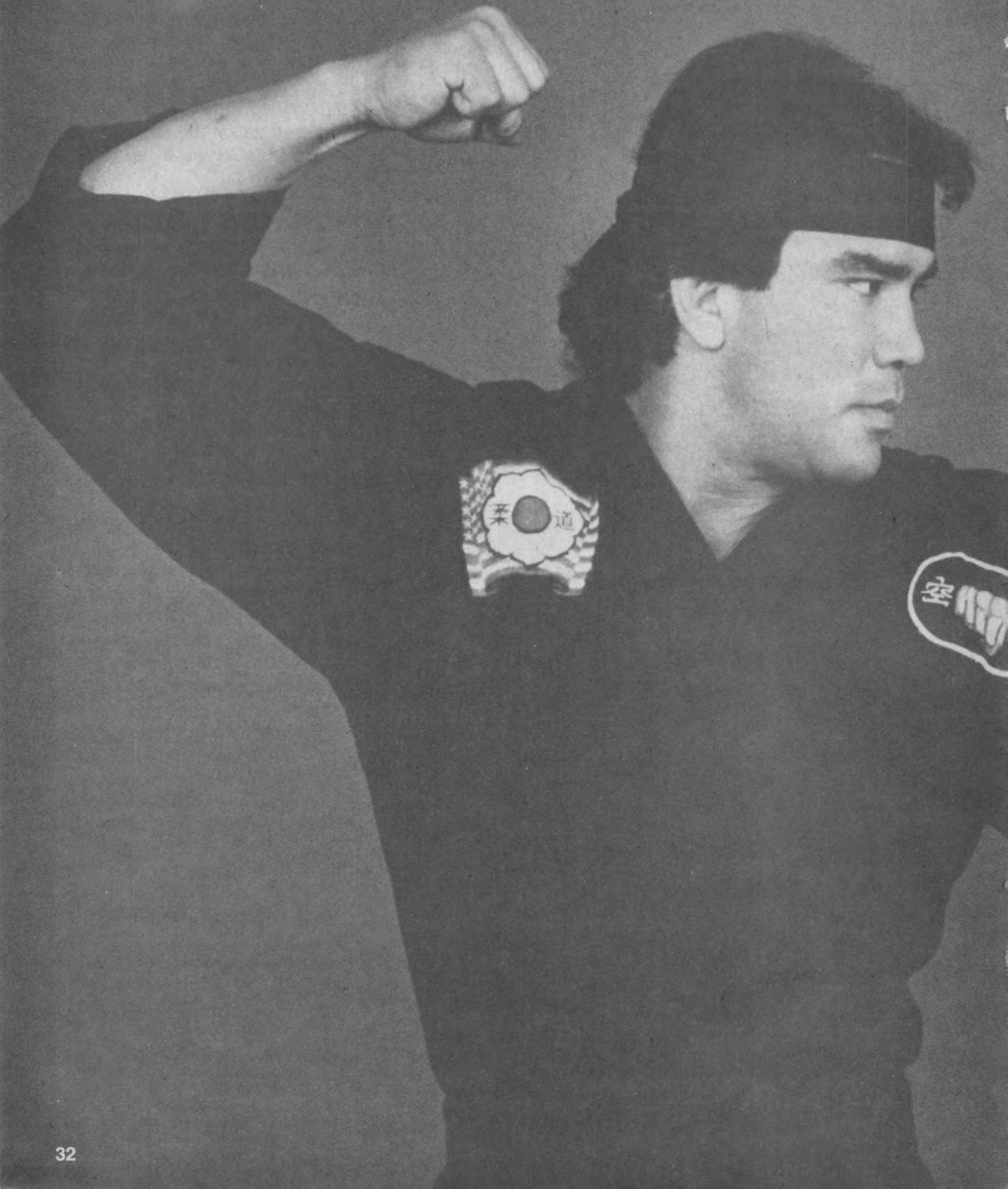
This is the moment that makes it all worthwhile. For the fans, this is their opportunity to let loose. They had gasped in horror when Hogan dropped to the canvas after a vicious right hand from his opponent. They had screamed encouragement when Hogan slumped wearily into the corner. But now that the match is over, it's their opportunity to show their champion how much they appreciated his effort.

It's a special moment for the champion as well. The pain he suffered moments earlier is ignored. Hogan struts around the ring in his usual confident style, but like everyone in the arena, he is only human. He may have the dimensions of a superhero, but those dimensions are arrived at only after countless hours of work in the gym: lifting, pushing, pulling, and sweating until his body has been worked to its limit.

Training is an important, maybe the most important, aspect of Hogan's life outside the ring. But it has to be fit in. He spends a huge chunk of his time traveling from city to city, giving interviews to the local press, taking care of private business ventures, and doing charity work in the communities he feels he owes something to for their support of his career. In Hogan's eyes, the blood and suffering, the gymwork, and the demands on his time are all part of

(Continued on page 58)

# RICK STE



# AMBOAT

## *The Year Of The Dragon*

By Craig Peters

**A**NYONE WHO MAKES even the most cursory study of the martial arts will quickly realize that in fact the term "martial arts" is hopelessly vague to begin with.

To say one "is a practitioner of the martial arts" is like saying one "likes music." Well, what kind of music? Rock 'n' roll? Jazz? Blues? Country and western? Broadway show tunes? Soul? R&B? Classical? Reggae?

Even if you could choose one of

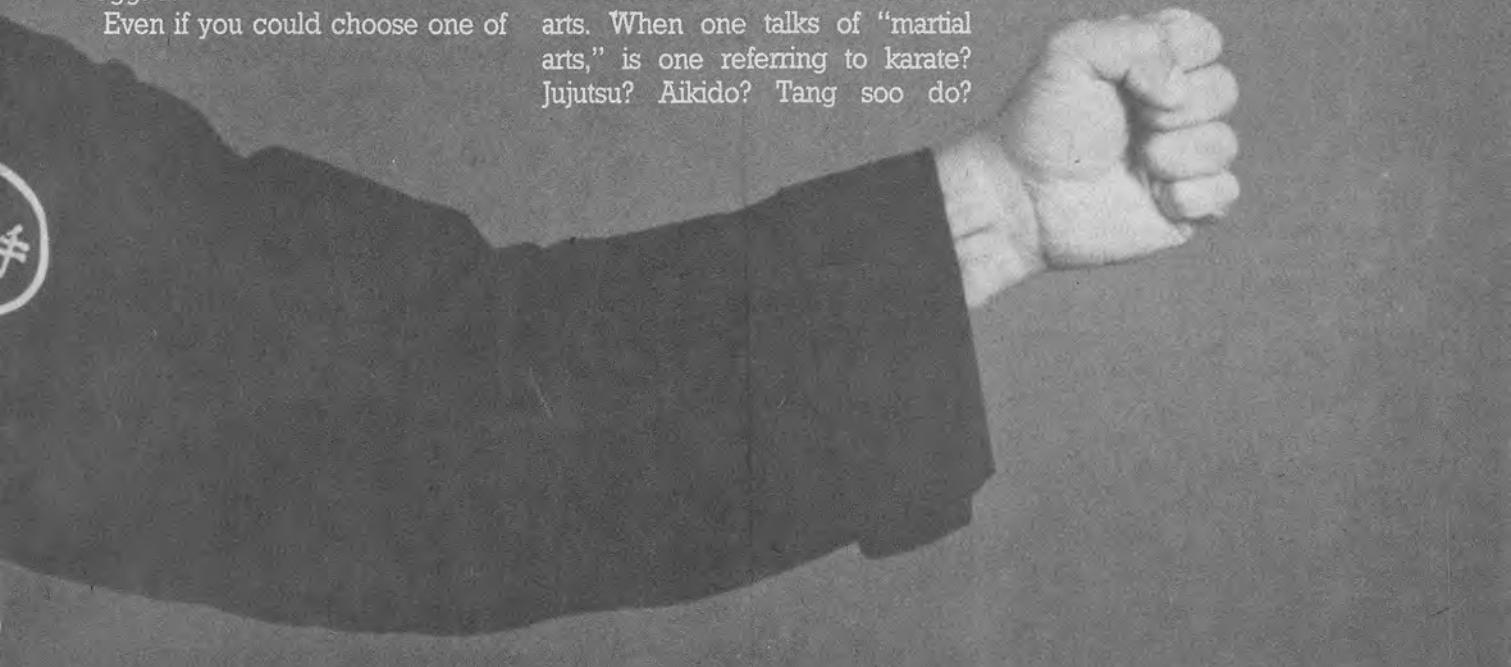
the above categories (and that list doesn't even come close to representing the full spectrum of musical possibilities), there still remains so much variation within the individual category: "Rock 'n' roll" could mean anything from Springsteen to Van Halen to The Clash to Chuck Berry to The Ronettes to anything in between . . . or beyond.

The same is true with the martial arts. When one talks of "martial arts," is one referring to karate? Jujutsu? Aikido? Tang soo do?

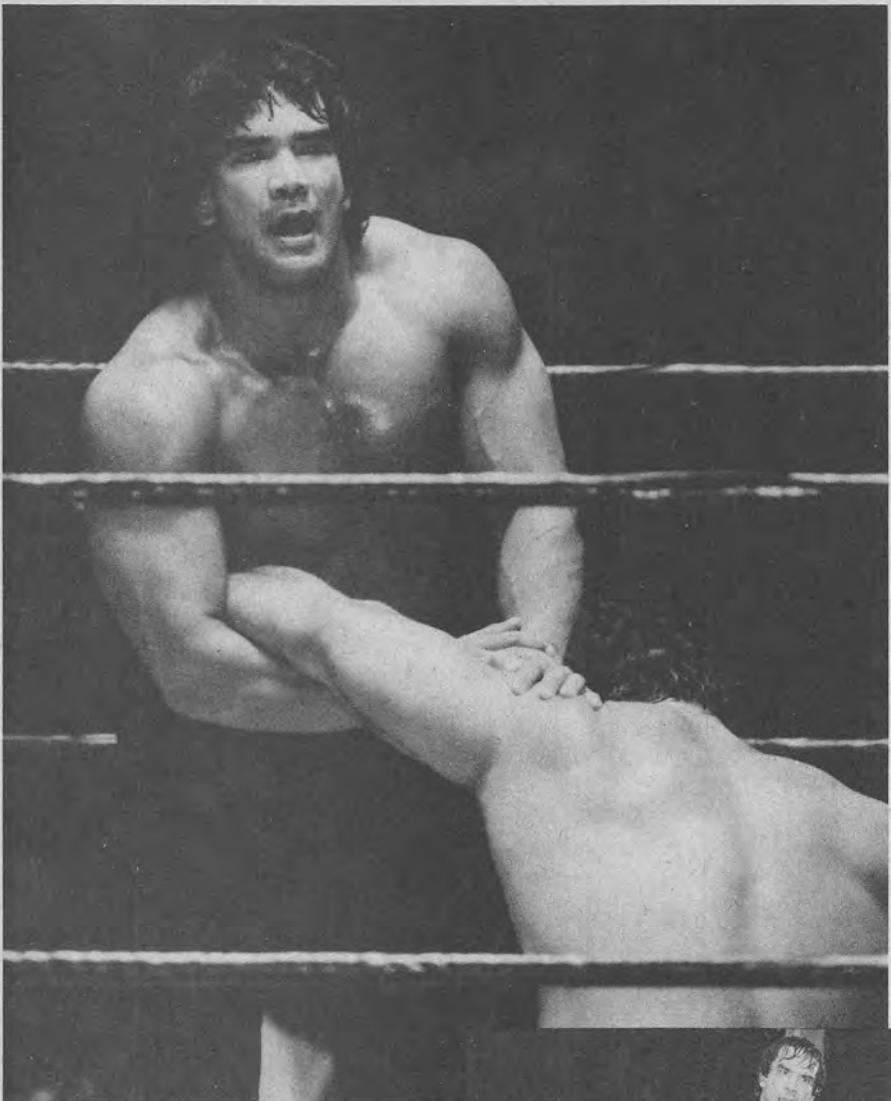
Kung fu? Shotokan? Tae kwon do?

One distinction that can be made without getting heavily bogged down in detail is that no matter which martial art one is talking about, there are two dimensions to that art: physical and mental.

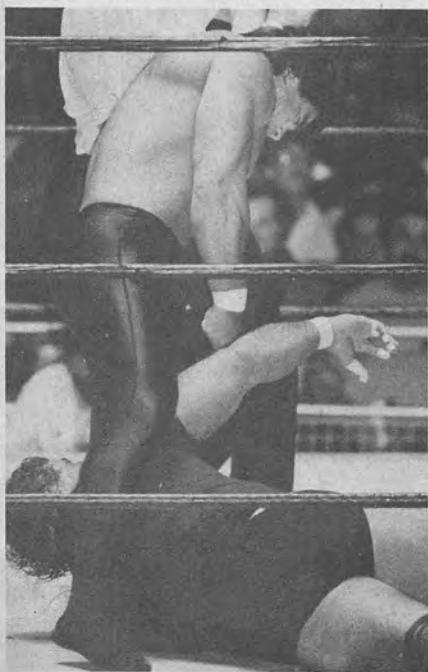
And this is a distinction that becomes very important in the case of the man known as "The Dragon"—Rick Steamboat.



**There is a new Rick Steamboat. He's got a new martial arts-based wrestling style, a new commitment to wrestling and to himself, and a new nickname—The Dragon. The only thing *not* new is Steamboat's determination to win**



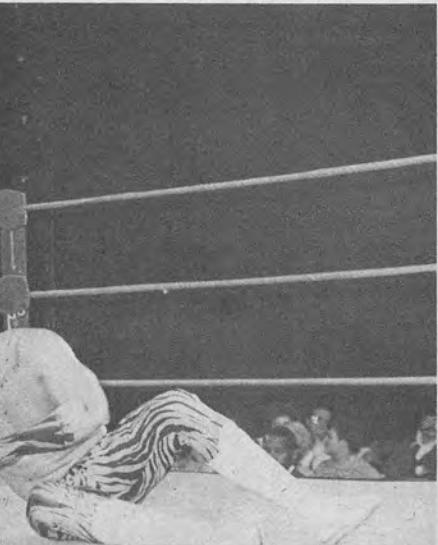
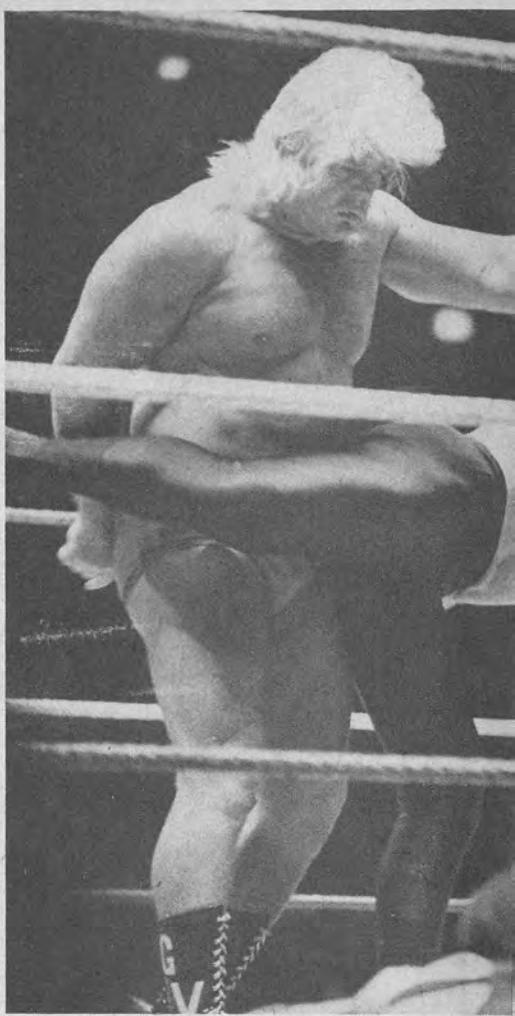
Above: Rick applies a traditional armbar against Magnificent Muraco. Below: Steamboat drags Muraco by his shirt. Right: "C'mon Brutus, this is no time for a rest!"



### The Physical Dimension

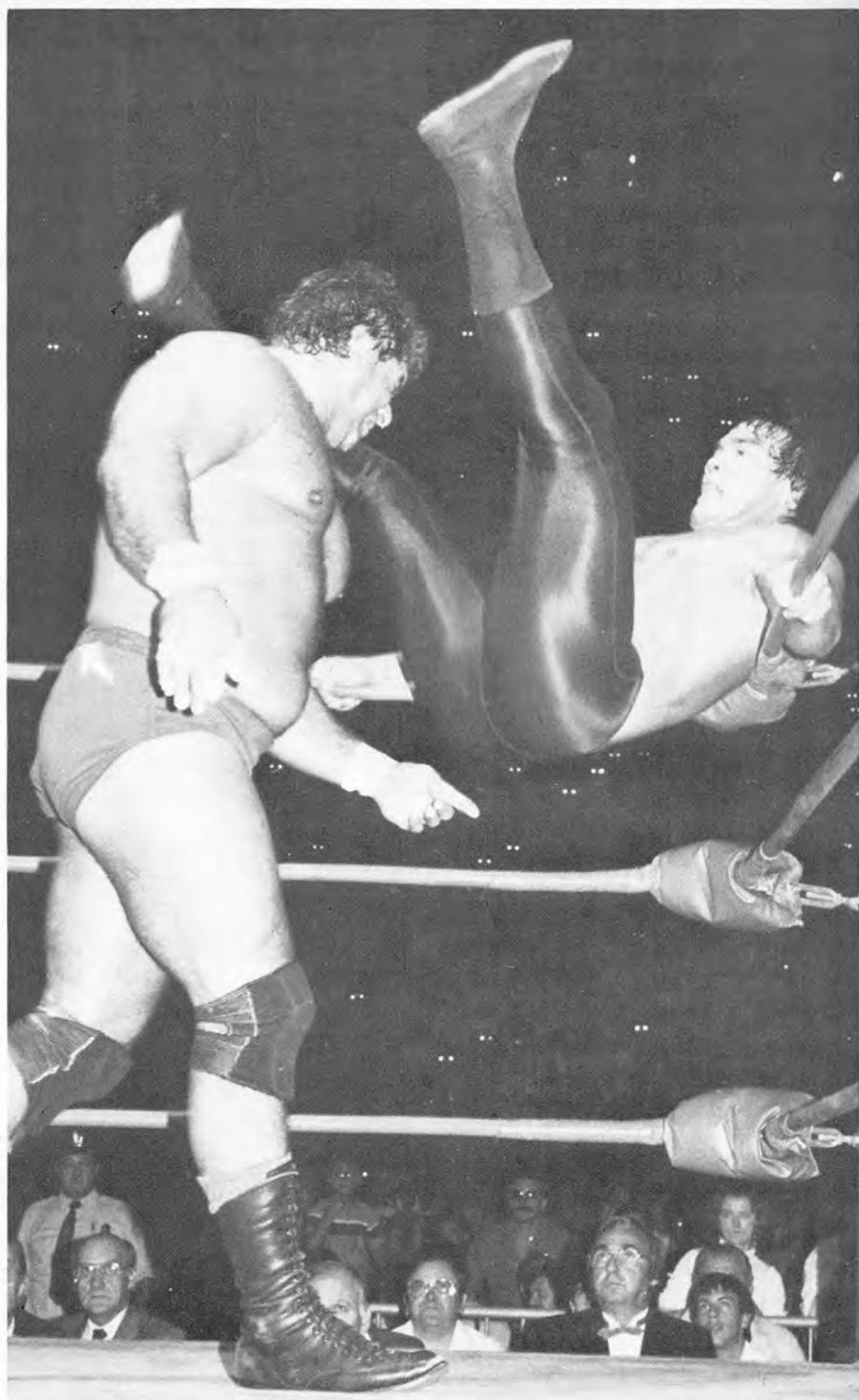
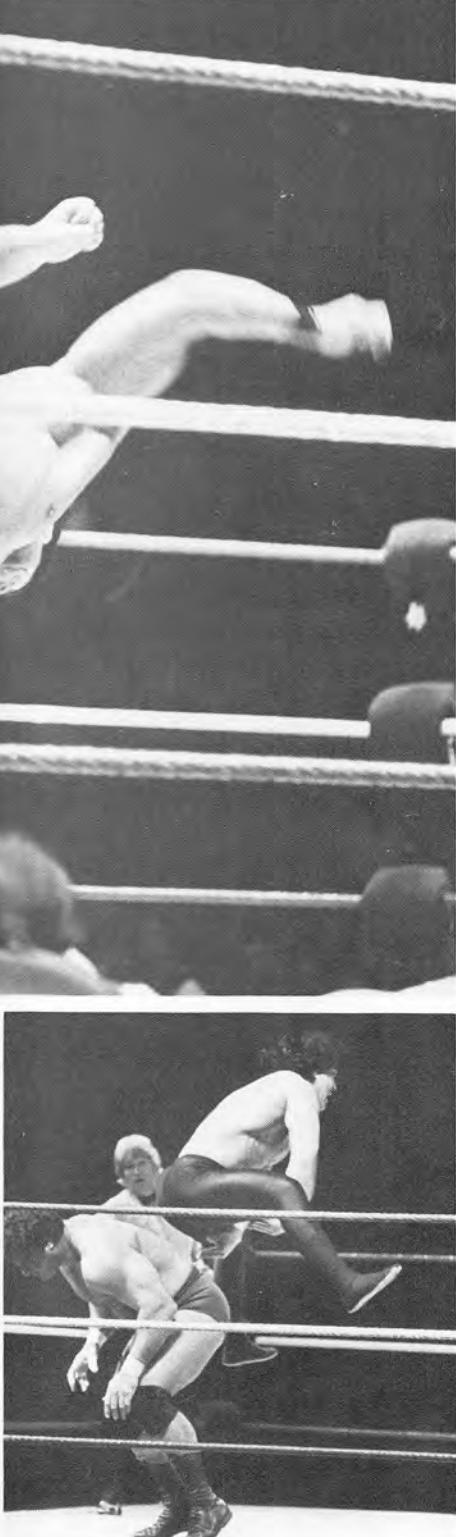
Several things are definite about the 1985 model Rick Steamboat:

- The Dragon is a man who has forgone all the aimlessness of the past few years, who has eliminated all the indecision of whether to run his gymnasium or to challenge for the NWA World title. He has found a new purpose: success in



the WWF. And he's devoting all of his time and energy toward achieving that goal.

- The Dragon is a man who, beyond finding new purpose, is *comfortable* with that purpose. On the television program *Wrestling TNT*, Steamboat silently watched a piece of videotape in which Mag-



*Top left: Steamboat catches Greg Valentine with a back-kick to the midsection. Left: Displaying tremendous leaping ability, Steamboat hurdles over a charging Muraco. Above: The Dragon scissored his Hawaiian rival's head.*

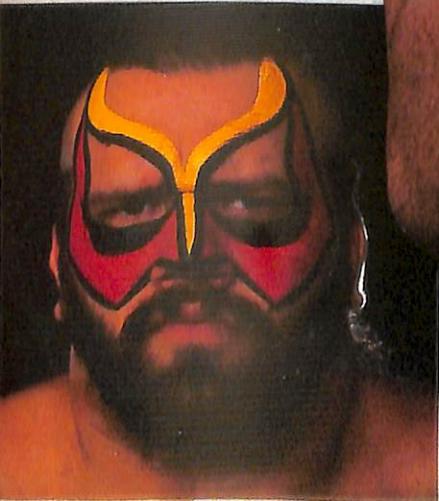
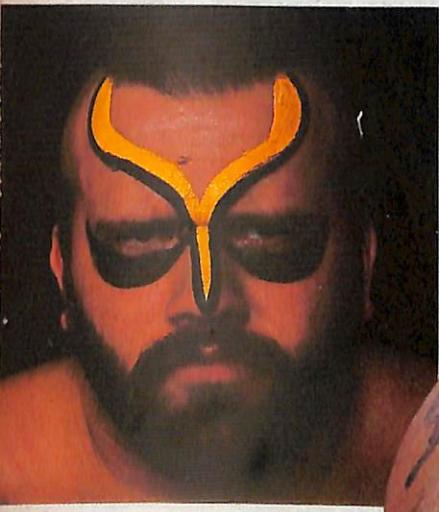
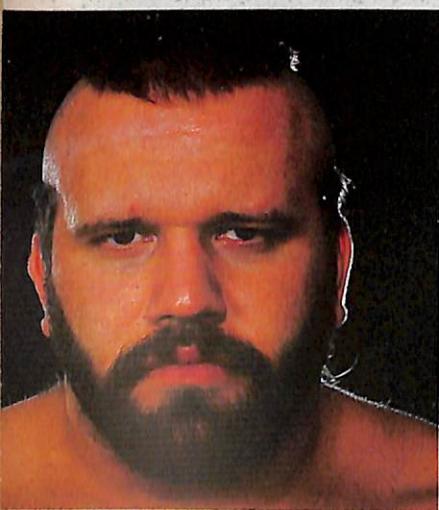
nificent Muraco and Mr. Fuji took the belt from Steamboat's black robe and used it to hang him by the neck over the top rope. When the tape was over, Steamboat was quiet for a few seconds. Then he told of how he actually *welcomed* the challenge of Muraco and Fuji. He even referred to his aimless-

ness of years back, and asserted that he was going to once and for all silence those critics who claim that the aimlessness that had plagued his career was still there. This, clearly, is a man who is determined, who has made his mind up, who will back down from no one.

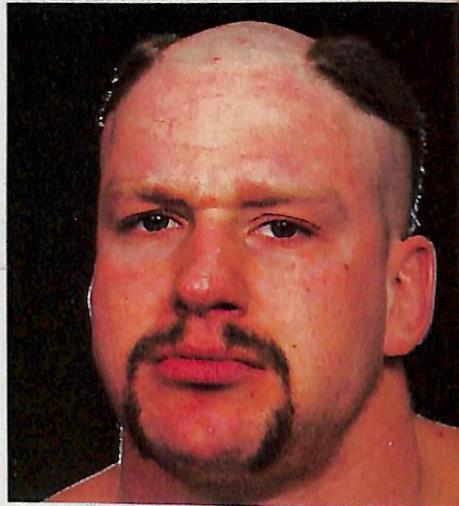
• The Dragon is a man who continues to have one of the most impressive scientific repertoires in the entire sport, yet he is down-playing much of that scientific knowledge and increasing his use of martial artistry in the ring.

The martial artistry in particular

# TRANSFO



# FORMATION



PART 2

## ... To A Finish

This is the last part of our special two-part examination of wrestling's deadliest finishing maneuvers. (Part one was published in the Winter issue of *Victory Sports Wrestling*.) Five of the most successful men in wrestling discuss their most effective finishing maneuver or hold. Their choices not only reveal much about their wrestling styles, but also much about the men themselves.



# WRESTLING'S 10 DEADLIEST HOLDS

# DUSTY RHODES

*Peering through blood-soaked eyes, Dusty Rhodes locates the target area on One Man Gang's head before delivering a brain-rattling bionic elbow.*

## Bionic Elbow

LIKE MANY OF the most effective finishing maneuvers, the bionic elbow appears deceptively simple. In actuality, it entailed long and hard hours to master. It is also one of the few maneuvers that, as it becomes more effective, it becomes more dangerous to its practitioner.

Dusty Rhodes, the man most famous for his bionic elbow, explains, "When done right, the arm is always in motion. It isn't a fluid motion, either. It's a series of perfectly timed jerks designed to provide the most leverage. It demands a lot of strength to be done right, but all the power in the world won't make it effective unless

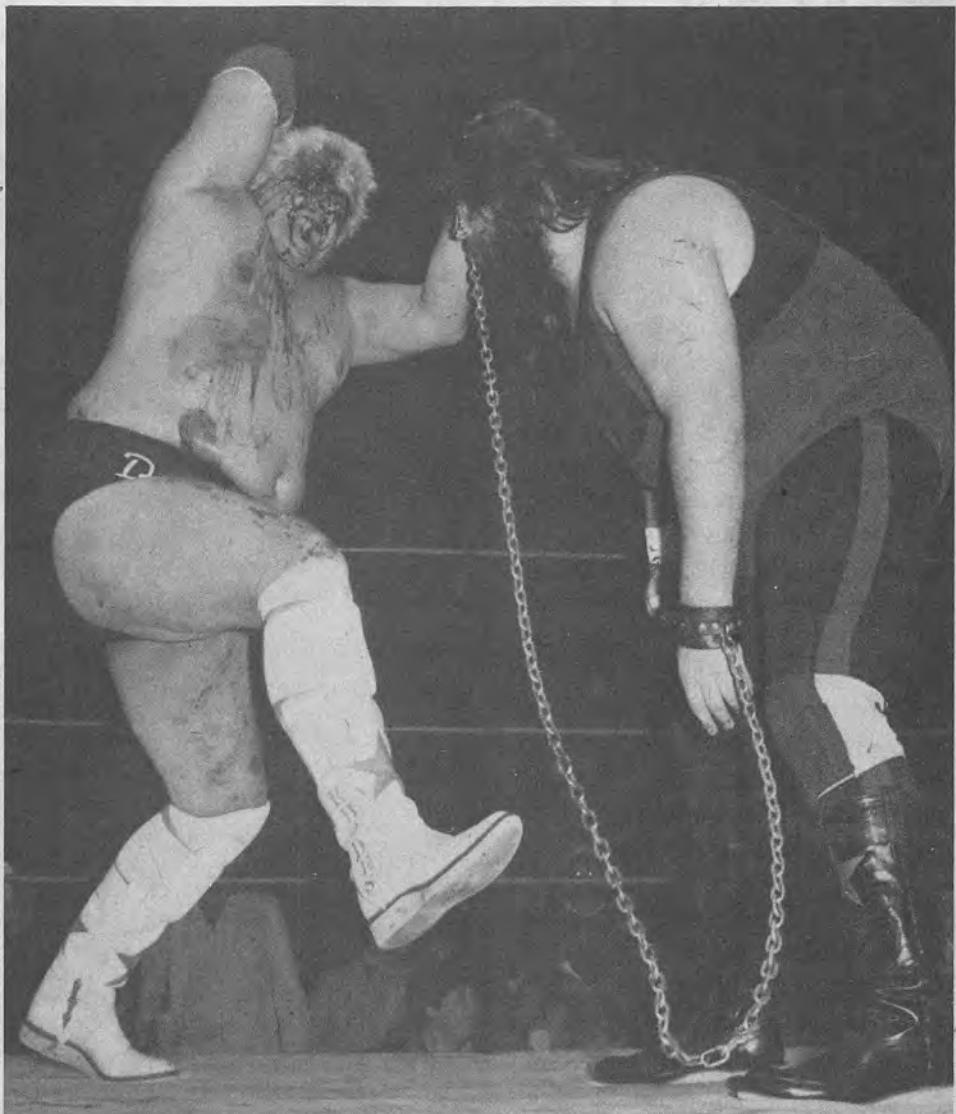
the motion is right on the money. If the jerks are timed and spaced correctly, there's very little power in the maneuver. That's why so many guys try it but few stick with it.

"The bionic elbowski allows no room for error. There are some maneuvers that don't have to be perfect to work. For example, a bad sleeper can still put a guy out. But the bionic elbowski is either perfect or worthless. In fact, it can be worse than worthless. It can be dangerous to the man executing it.

"If you hit the guy in mid-jerk, your upper arm and shoulder have to absorb an incredible shock. It can tear

the ligaments in your elbow, rip up your biceps, and force a shoulder separation. When I've made a mistake, I can feel it for two days; my entire arm is in agony. And I've been lucky. I've known guys who've landed in the hospital.

"Now you're going to ask why if it's so dangerous do I use it. Look, you have to go with what works physically best for you. I happen to be built perfectly for the bionic elbow. A professional wrestler doesn't have that great a choice as to maneuvers he can do. No matter what the risk, you go with what you know makes you a winner."



# CHRIS ADAMS

BORN OF A karate maneuver, the superkick can send an opponent hurtling through the air, crashing to the ground and wanting to do anything but get up again. It's the maneuver made famous by young Chris Adams. According to Adams, this brutally dangerous maneuver is basically for defensive purposes.

But don't be fooled—the superkick is not a defensive maneuver. When Adams calls the superkick a defensive maneuver, he means he's defending himself against prejudicial referees.

"Once a guy is branded a rulebreaker," Adams contends, "he has no friends. The referees try to handcuff him and they allow his opponents to get away with murder. So I had to come up with something that would quickly and surely stop a guy so even the referee couldn't save him."

"To say the superkick is just a karate maneuver is like saying the Sistine Chapel ceiling is just a painting. You can't be even very good at karate and expect to master the superkick. It also combines rigorous training, some experience in gymnastics, and you have to be born with muscular legs. If you don't have the raw material, all the training in the world won't mean squat. That's why no other wrestler will ever master the superkick. I have the best legs in wrestling."

Kevin Von Erich, one of the superkick's victims, relates, "When his foot hits, it's like your entire torso explodes. You can't think of anything. A wrestler's instincts almost always function in any situation, but not after getting the superkick. I don't think I've ever felt so helpless."

Many wrestlers believe the superkick

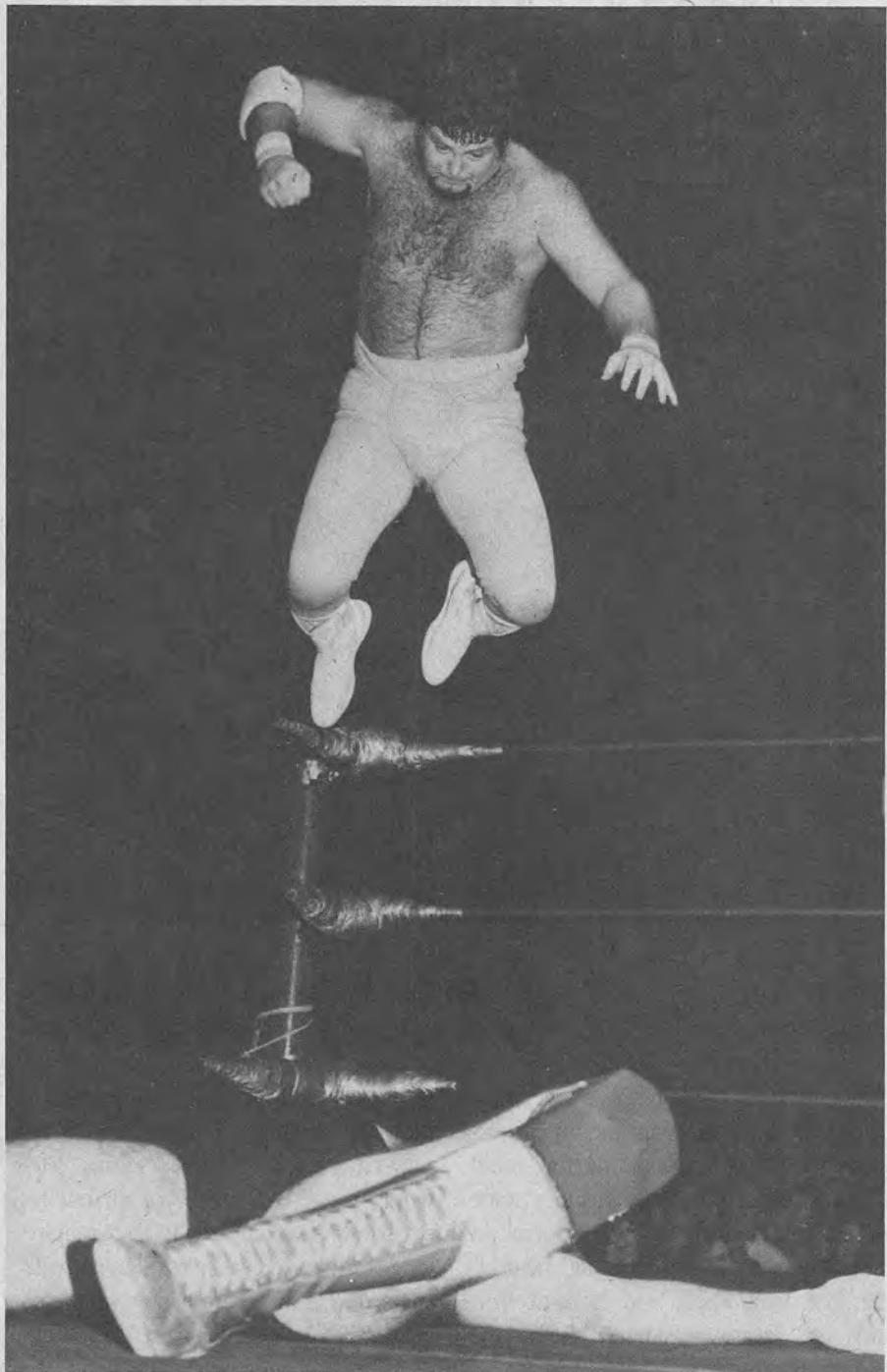


*Chris Adams snaps back Michael Hayes with a perfectly placed superkick to the chin. Adams can end a match in three seconds and a fraction with this maneuver: a fraction for the execution of the superkick and three seconds for the referee's count.*

can cause internal damage to its victims. Kidneys, spleen, and lungs are especially vulnerable. When Adams is asked about this, he says, "They're

right. When they face me, they do so at great risk. Make sure you put that in the article. I want to make sure those guys know what they're in for."

## Superkick



*Leaping from the top turnbuckle, Jerry Lawler draws back his fist and, as he impacts the mat, simultaneously drives the fist into his opponent's face. Describing the maneuver, Lawler says, "It's like being hit by a 250-pound fist."*

**I**T HITS THE foe like a bolt of lightning. The pain is concentrated and profound. Once a man has felt the devastation of a fistdrop, he is useless for the rest of the match.

To the unsuspecting, it's confusing how the fistdrop can be so effective. The wrestler leaps off the rope and hurtles toward his foe. When the grappler lands, his fist smashes into the victim's face. It appears to be no more than an elaborate punch in the face. Then why should it be so awesome?

Jerry Lawler, the most famously connected with the punch, explains: "The power from the fistdrop comes from the entire body. It's like a missile. Only the head of a missile comes in direct contact with its target, but you have the whole force of the bomb behind it. When my fist hits its target, the force of my entire body is behind it. It's like being hit with a 250-pound fist. You don't get up from that."

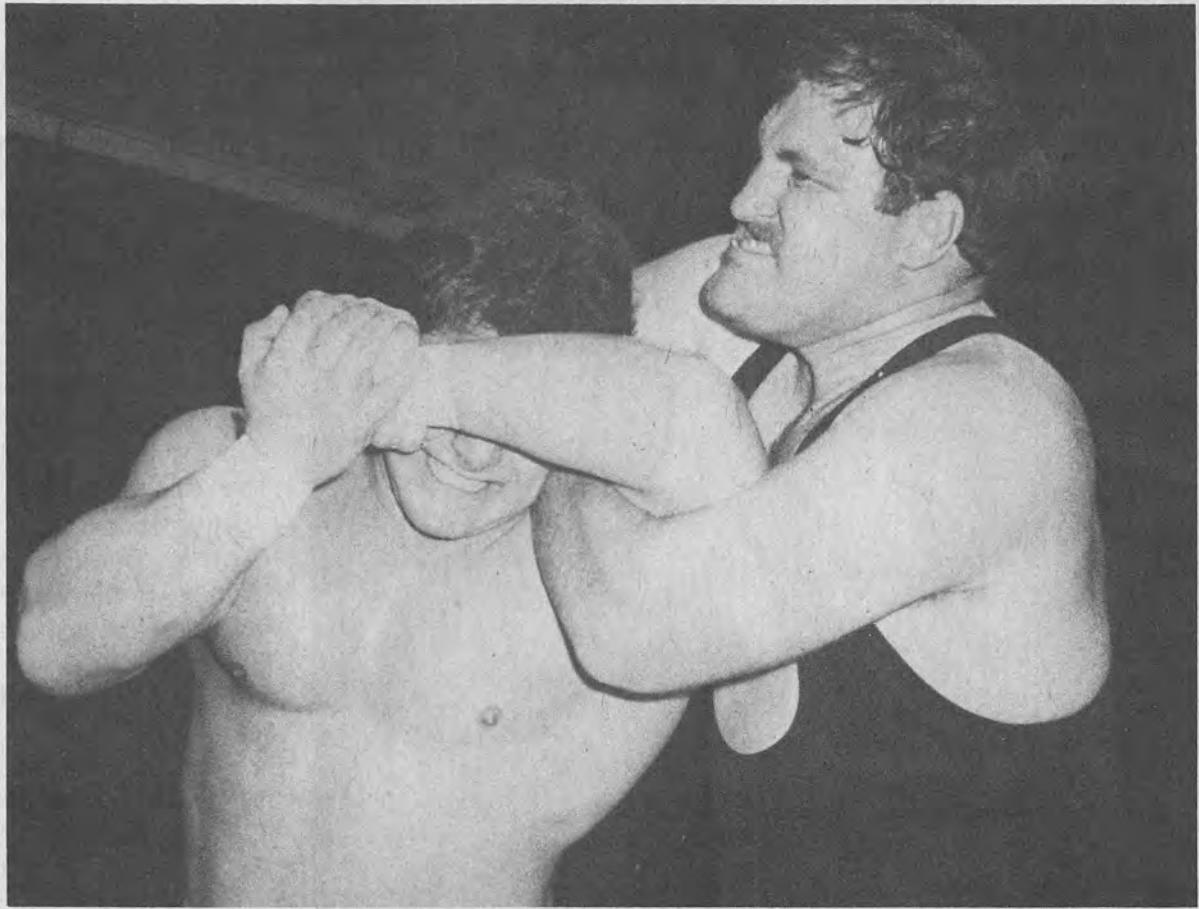
Those who've studied Lawler realize the fistdrop is really more like a fistroll. His body is always in motion, subtly twisting so the true force of the fistdrop comes from both a downward and sideward fall. It takes great body control. Done badly, the fist wouldn't hit its target flush. The shock to the arm could be devastating. There is also real danger of spinal injury if the roll is done badly.

Lawler claims not to worry about the danger. "There's only reason to worry," he boasts, "if it's done incorrectly. I don't make mistakes when it counts. No, when it comes to the fistdrop, only my victims have to worry. And they have a lot to worry about, as my record proves."

# JERRY LAWLER

## Fistdrop

# SGT. SLAUGHTER



## Cobra Clutch

*Sgt. Slaughter applies the dreaded cobra clutch on the late Rick McGraw. Slaughter's favorite finishing maneuver, in effect, is a sleeperhold painfully applied. Few wrestlers have the physical tools necessary to apply it.*

**I**IF FORCED TO choose the most feared hold in wrestling, most experts would probably name the cobra clutch. Its list of victims includes some of the most dangerously powerful in wrestling. Any hold that could neutralize The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff has to be considered among the most devastating holds ever executed.

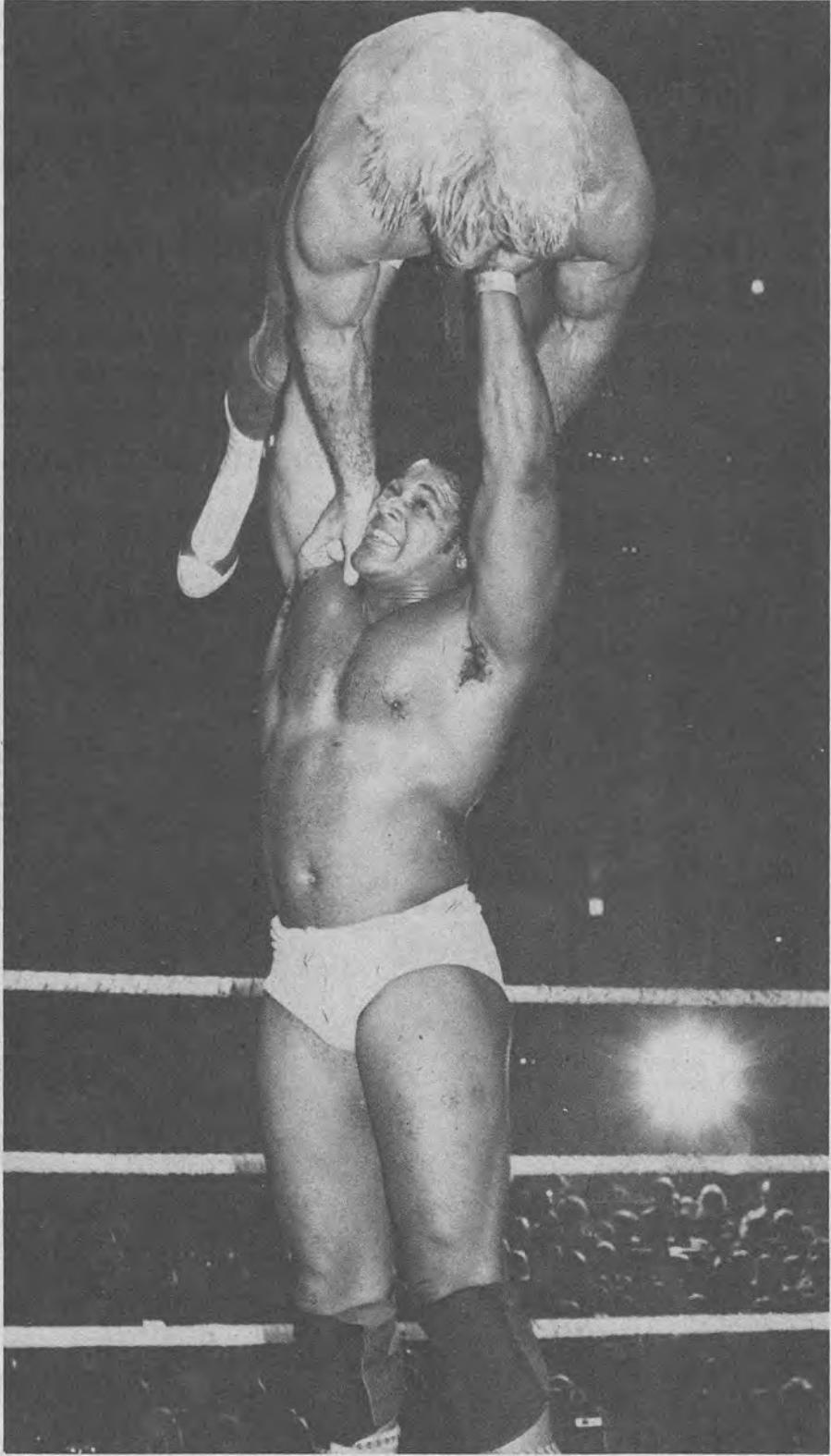
The man most closely identified with the cobra clutch is Sgt. Slaughter. When Slaughter started out, he was a rulebreaker and he developed the hold to terrorize wrestling. When Slaughter evolved into a fan favorite, he still used the cobra clutch, but now against some of the most feared men in wrestling. Today, the cobra clutch is looked upon as an enforcer of athletic justice.

To even attempt the cobra clutch, one has to have the awesome physique of a Sgt. Slaughter. Of all the

superholds, the cobra clutch may be the most draining. The amount of energy required to effectively entrap a foe would prove too much for all but the strongest of grapplers. It also requires long and muscular arms. To correctly snake the arms around an opponent's head, the necessary length disqualifies most normal men. Even the arms of a conventionally large man would prove inadequate. Arms too short couldn't possibly encircle the opponent's head into the cobra clutch's elaborate configuration.

To its victims, the cobra clutch is considered a dispenser of agony. Those who have suffered it say that it's pure torture. Told of that description, Slaughter says with grim finality, "The only people who suffer from the hold are the ones who deserve to suffer."

# BUTCH REED



*If Ric Flair has a fear of heights, Butch Reed will be very understanding. From this position eight feet in the air, Reed will throw the NWA champion across the ring, allowing him to fall on his back. Invariably, the extended-arm bodyslam will knock the wind out of a man and weaken him for the balance of a match.*

IF YOU WERE to ask experts which supermaneuver required the most sheer brute strength, the answer would almost certainly be the extended-arm bodyslam. It almost defies believability. One man lifts a huge grappler off the ground, pumps the victim over his head as if the foe were a barbell, and throws the hapless opponent to the canvas. When one considers that means lifting a struggling man of at least 250 pounds over your head, the strength required boggles the imagination.

One of the few men who can even contemplate attempting the extended-arm bodyslam is Butch Reed. Reed's superbly muscled body is the product of many hours weekly in the gym. This doesn't make him unique in wrestling, so one assumes there has to be more involved than the ability to lift weights.

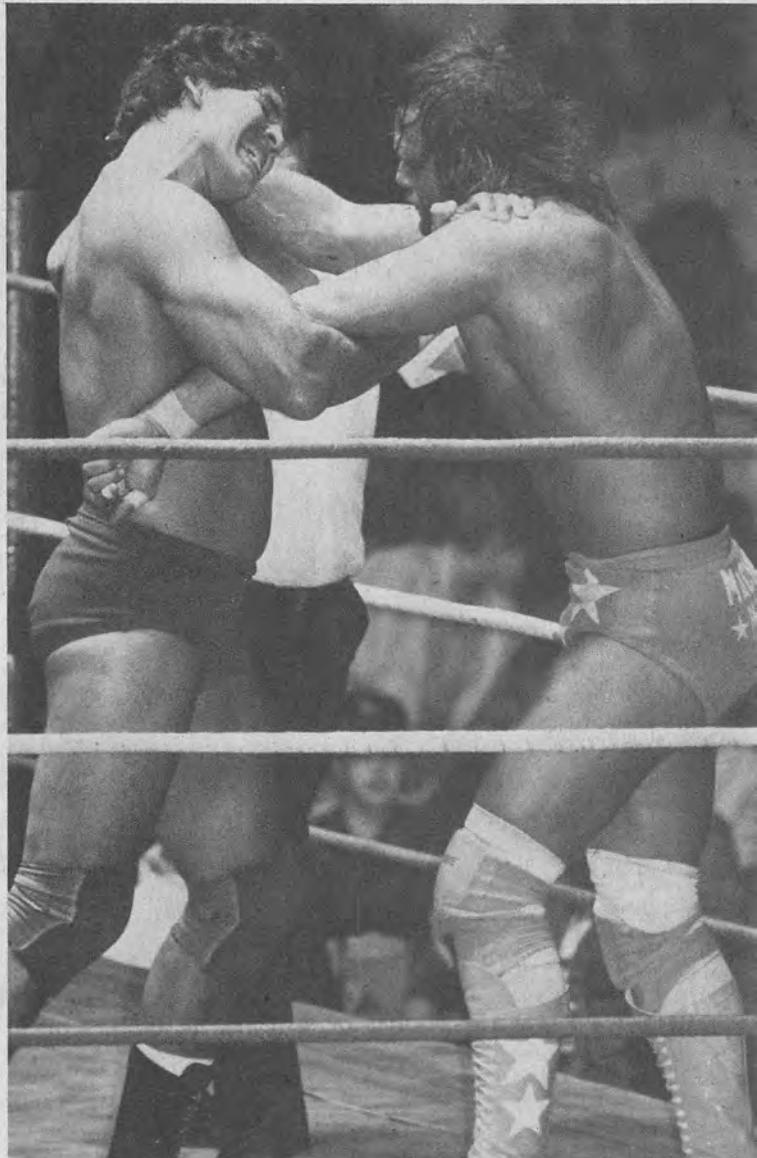
Reed reveals, "I'd say positioning is 30 percent of the battle when it comes to the extended-arm bodyslam. No one—and I mean no one!—can simply lift a professional wrestler over his head. You have to use your victim's own movements to help. He has to be moving toward you at a certain speed and you have to position yourself at a certain angle. Then when he makes contact, you use his own velocity to help hoist him in the air. Of course, it takes a lot of strength to lift the man; I won't pretend to be modest about that. However, it takes brains and agility, also. You have to be smarter than your opponent to capture him in the hold."

"Most importantly, he can't suspect when you're ready to get him. Most professional wrestlers can anticipate when someone is preparing to execute the extended-arm bodyslam. To make it effective, you have to disguise it. You have a fraction of a second to get your body in position; any longer and your opponent can counter. It takes brains to be successful with any finishing hold."

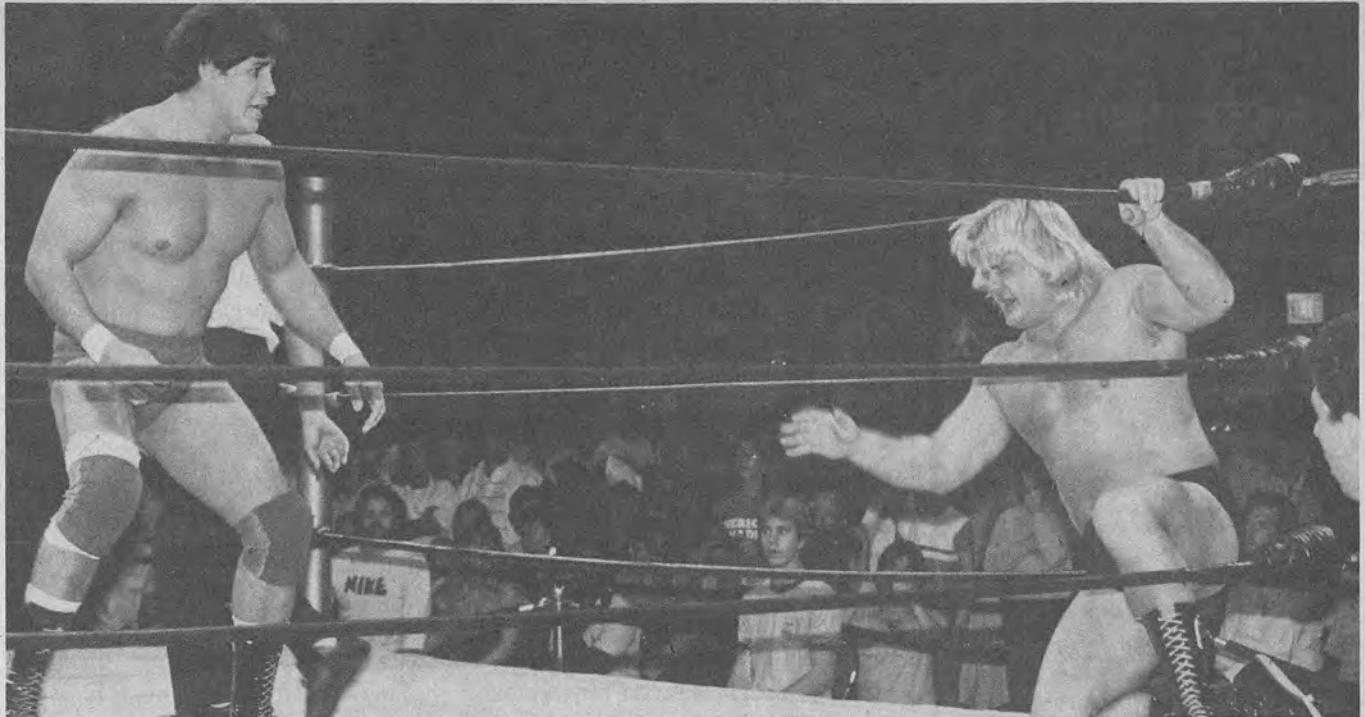
## Extended-Arm Bodyslam

# TITO SANTANA: COMMANDING THE RESPECT OF A WORLD CHAMPION

*As controversy rages over Hulk Hogan's relative inactivity, people are starting to notice there is another popular champion in the WWF. And Tito Santana's responsibilities as Intercontinental champion are immense and somewhat unique*



*Several wrestling experts were certain that Santana's title reign would end when he stepped in the ring with "Macho Man" Randy Savage. Well, Tito still has the belt (left).*



**I**N THE National Wrestling Alliance (NWA), Ric Flair is the undisputed World champion. In addition, there are 20 other major singles heavyweight championships in various NWA-sanctioned regions: U.S. champion, World

*Greg Valentine (above and below) and Savage (left) can attest to the fiery Mexican's championship standing.*

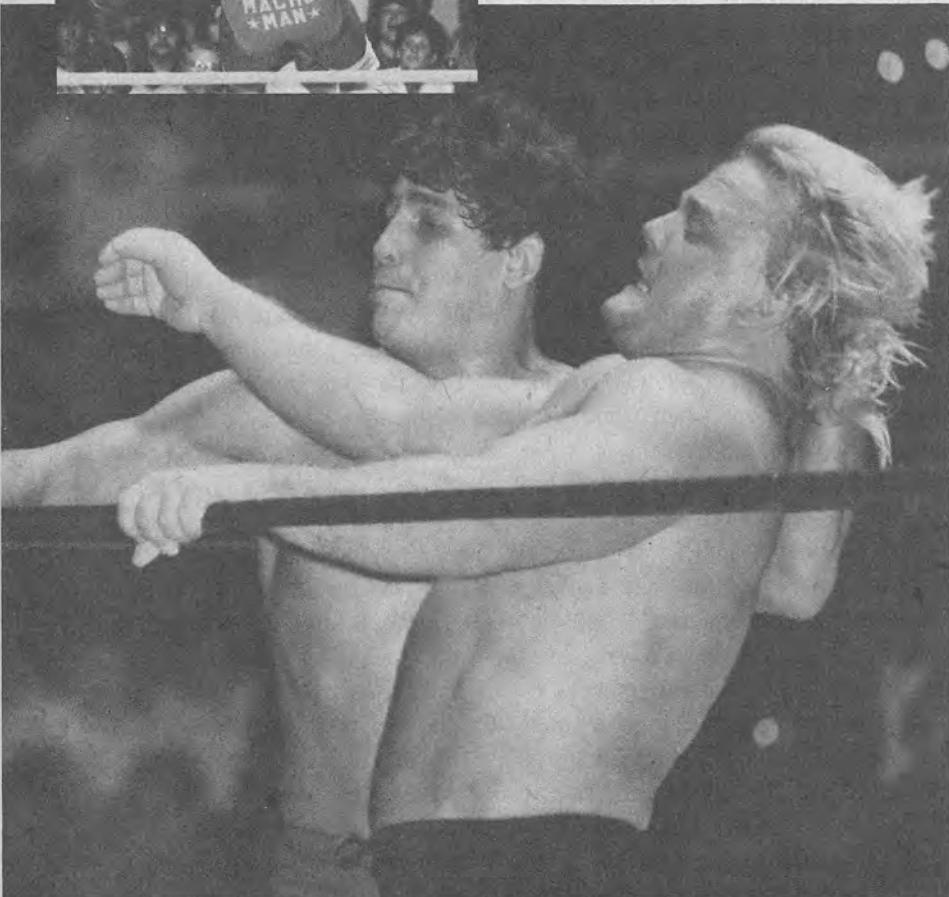
Class American champion, Missouri State champion, etc.

In the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), Hulk Hogan is the undisputed World champion. In addition, there are two other singles heavyweight championships in the federation. The WWF International title, held for more than two years by Tatsumi Fujinami, is rarely defended within the confines of the United States. The WWF Intercontinental title, currently held by Tito Santana, is the federation's only American singles belt besides The Hulkster's.

Wherein lies the burden.

Promises of large purses and television exposure have been attracting a wide variety of wrestlers to the WWF. However, no grappler in his right mind enters the federation with the express intent of signing for immediate title matches with Hulk Hogan. To put it charitably, The Hulkster has distinguished himself as a semi-active world champion. There are no more than a half-dozen WWF contenders—all rulebreakers, of course—who can brag of receiving title shots with Hogan. And the list of deserving candidates—including scientific wrestlers, of course—is endless.

*(Continued on page 64)*



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## BROTHERS

(Continued from page 8)

the Mid-Southern Coliseum for the afternoon, we asked the brothers if we could photograph the match. Poffo and Savage agreed, somewhat reluctantly. As Poffo admitted, "We'd like to do it, but we're not sure how it's gonna turn out."

Interestingly enough, it was the brothers who insisted on a referee. It never occurred to us that one would be needed for this informal match. Only a professional wrestler would realize that there are dangers even in an unofficial match between two brothers. If something snapped inside one, or if the match got too intense, it could be disastrous. A referee would be needed to make sure the match stayed under control.

Lanny and Randy's choice for the referee was Jerry Lawler. He was a man, they felt, who could sense if the match was becoming dangerous. Also, as a personal friend to both men, he would be interested in making sure they wouldn't get to the point where they'd become enemies. Though there was a lot of joking and good-natured ribbing bout the upcoming battle, you didn't have to be very sensitive to realize both men were apprehensive.

Lawler's first reaction didn't do anything to defuse the situation. "You guys are crazy!" he shouted. "This is the stupidest thing I ever heard! Why play with fire? It's hard enough to stay close in this sport when you don't wrestle each other. I'll referee for you guys, but I'm telling you right off the bat: If it gets vicious in there, I'm stopping it immediately."

The afternoon of the match crackled with an uncomfortable tension. Lawler looked miserable; he was taking his responsibility as referee very seriously. The brothers tried to joke about the coming contest, attempting to make light of the consequences. But the jokes were forced and much of what they said sounded hollow. One got the feeling they were surprised and

scared at what they felt about the imminent battle. If anyone had suggested the bout be canceled, everyone would have been relieved. Of course, no one offered the idea, and the brothers dressed.

Lanny admitted to being very serious about the match; this was more than a sparring session to him. Randy, as if to downplay the bout's importance, wore jeans and a tank top. Even when he walked into the ring, Randy seemed more nonchalant than his brother. When the bell rang, however, Randy's nonchalance disappeared. Both men were very serious. At the same time, there was a certain hesitance. Neither wanted to go all out, perhaps for fear of what it might do to his brother, and perhaps for fear of what it might say about himself.

As the match progressed, however, the natural instincts of an athlete took command. The brothers started wrestling with greater intensity. The movements were crisper and harder and more powerful. Then came the first real confrontation. The brothers locked hands in a test of strength. Their muscles bulged and rippled as each man struggled for control. Slowly but surely, Savage managed to dominate. Poffo broke the hold and retreated. Something very frightening was happening: This was becoming a real match.

Lawler's eyes burned with intensity as he kept a close watch on the action. He knew the fuse had been lit, and an explosion was imminent. "Do you want to continue?" he asked. With mixed feelings, Lawler saw both men nod. There was no turning back now. The brothers would go all out to see who is the better wrestler.

Although the match became a battle, the two brothers remained scientific, because it was most important to win this bout honestly. This doesn't mean they were easy on each other. When Randy snared his brother in a headlock, Lanny's agony could be seen

# WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE OF RARE BACK ISSUES

on his red face's expression. This was for keeps.

Several times, Lawler seemed ready to stop the action. It wasn't that the brothers were violating any rules, but the fury of the battle frightened him. Later, Lawler admitted he was close to stopping the action at least five times in the first 10 minutes. But he knew he had to let them go. To stop it that early would only fuel resentment between the brothers because of all the unanswered questions.

What followed was a superb exhibition of wrestling brilliance. Both men were at their best, pushing themselves past all previous limits. At one point, with his brother on the canvas, Poffo climbed atop the turnbuckle and backflipped onto Savage. It was a flashy maneuver, more to flaunt Poffo's ability than to cause damage. He was daring his brother to best him.

The battle continued to see-saw. Both men grew weary from exhaustion and punishment. Their moves were slower now and there was a sense of desperation. What kept them going was not the quest for victory, but the utter fear of losing.

Battling with instinct and will as their only weapons, the two men desperately tried for victory. Their bodies begging to surrender, their pride forcing them to continue, Lanny and Randy battled on. The match had been going on for 30 minutes now.

Then came the moment everyone will always remember. Exhausted, the two men stared at each other from across the ring. They knew the next contact would be the last; their bodies couldn't stand anymore abuse. Lawler stood between the two brothers and put his hands up. "That's it, guys, it's over. You've both had enough. If it keeps going, there's gonna be a serious injury to one of you, and I'm afraid the thought of that would hurt the winner emotionally far worse than it would hurt the loser physically. And anyway, you've already proved which brother is best. You both are."

Together, Lanny Poffo and Randy Savage walked back to the dressing room. □

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## KEVIN VON ERICH

(Continued from page 12)

rules. True, when squared off against a particularly incessant rulebreaker, the Von Erichs will retaliate on equal terms, but only if given no other alternative.

The incident that has tested the strength of their values is their association with Chris Adams. Once treated as part of the family by the Von Erichs, Chris Adams is now their biggest threat. He turned on their trust, changed their compassion into hate, and created what some wrestling critics feel is the most heated feud in wrestling history.

Hardest hit by the change in Adams was Kevin Von Erich. As his closest friend, Kevin felt the most betrayed when Adams took on Gary Hart and severed his relationship with the Von Erichs. Kevin, the most introspective member of the family, felt in many ways responsible for the breakup. Kerry Von Erich explained what the feeling around the Von Erich home was in the months after the Adams defection:

"We were all pretty astounded, including my dad, who has a pretty thick skin. He had really taken a liking to Chris and he couldn't figure out what went wrong. But after a couple of months—when it became clear to all of us that Chris was gone for good—we adjusted to it. We had no choice. He became the enemy, and if we didn't treat him as the enemy then we were risking injury."

"Kevin just couldn't get it through his head that Chris Adams didn't like us anymore. Of all of us, Kevin has always been the most forgiving. But this was serious business. Even after Adams put Kevin in the hospital, Kevin thought that they could be

come friends again. It was crazy."

"In a way, when Adams beat me for the American title, that convinced Kevin. And as much as I'm anxious to get a piece of Chris Adams, I'd gladly defer to Kevin. He's changed over the last few months. Chris Adams is in for a rude awakening."

Kevin Von Erich will be the first one to admit that it hasn't been easy.

"Heck, no," said the sleepy-eyed idol. "I don't know what you can call me. Naive, I guess, or just plain stupid is more like it. You never want to give up on people. Even when they spit in your face and kick you in the back. It just took longer for me."

The "new" Kevin Von Erich is noticeably more aggressive. His matches don't last as long, and he's more inclined to brawl with the rulebreakers than he has been in the past. And he's very anxious to find himself in the same ring with Chris Adams.

"I would like one more match with him. I would like one chance to vent all of the frustrations that have built up inside me. Right now I feel like a different person. I needed something to change my ring style, something to shake me up. I'm not going to be stepped on anymore by anyone. No more Mr. Nice Guy. No more Mr. Sap."

"It seems that all I've talked about in the past eight months is Chris Adams. I want to get this whole thing out of my system and move on. Chris Adams is no longer anything special. He's just another wrestler, like One Man Gang or Gino

(Continued on page 50)

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## KEVIN VON ERICH

(Continued from page 48)

Hernandez. To lend any special importance to him is giving him more credit than he deserves."

The new Kevin Von Erich has the enthusiastic support of his fans, friends, and family, all of whom have watched in fear these past few months as Kevin attempted one futile reconciliation after another. As Papa Fritz put it:

"Kevin had to figure out what to do about this Adams situation by himself. Nothing we could say or do would have done any good. It's one of life's difficult lessons that you have to learn on your own. Since Kevin is naturally more compassionate than most other people, it just took him a little longer. But he's with us now, in mind and body, and he's gonna be one heckuva dangerous son-of-a-gun."

## THE LEGEND

(Continued from page 18)

I want is to retire to a little peace and quiet. Spend time with the family, take a vacation. Do all the things I couldn't do these past 25 years."

Bruno commented that "wrestling has allowed me to do things and meet people that was beyond my wildest dreams. But I have a son who deserves the spotlight now. And I have a pair of twins at home that I'd like to spend more time with."

The words were what you'd expect to hear from two men whose lives have been public property since they stepped into the ring. People close to the champs, though, knew better. Senior Editor Bill Apter, an old friend of Sammartino's, confided that "Bruno was restless from the moment he retired. I interviewed Bruno about a year after the Steele match and he was in the best shape I had ever seen him in. He told me that he was working out more now than when he was wrestling."

You could just sense that he wanted to come back, although he didn't say anything to me at the time."

A similiar refrain could be heard from up around Minnesota, where Verne Gagne was spending his time as an AWA official. Greg Gagne told us that "Dad would never stop moving. He was very active in wrestling, but you could tell his heart was in the ring. He was always working out with me, but he spent a lot of time at home, writing columns for his wrestling newspaper [*Verne Gagne's Pro Wrestling Report*] and taking care of his business interests. I'm glad something happened to get him out of the house. He was driving Mom crazy."

What drove both Verne and Bruno from their homes and back into the ring was something that any parent could appreciate. Bruno came to the rescue of his son David, who was attacked by Brutus Beefcake and Johnny Valiant, while Verne rallied behind Greg after he was attacked by Mr. Saito and Nick Bockwinkel.

Although both situations were serious, the feeling throughout the wrestling world is that Gagne and Sammartino were just dying for an excuse to get back into the ring, and were only too happy to use their children for such an occasion.

"Nonsense," said Bruno. "I'm here only to help David. This is a temporary situation. Once we straighten this Beefcake and Valiant out, then I'll go back to just announcing matches and training David."

Gagne is even more explicit about his much ballyhooed comeback: "This is no comeback. I'm just helping Greg settle an old score. That's it."

But, gentlemen, does it feel as good for you to get back in the ring as it does for the fans to have you?

"Yeah," Bruno sheepishly replied, "it feels great."

"You mean do I like the contact?", Verne asked. "Do I like the fans' cheers? Do I like the action? Do I like the excitement? What do you think? C'mon, what do you think?"

Old legends never die. They just keep coming back. □

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## RICK MARTEL

(Continued from page 22)

several times, but each time the ref refused to count. And I hope no one has forgotten our title match last month, where I won the belt, and in one of the grossest displays of partiality in the history of professional sports, the match decision was reversed by a group of officials who were not even in attendance.

"I became worried that despite my superior talents, I would never see the belt around my waist. Then my Precious over here came up with a plan that has succeeded where my ring talents have failed. You see, ladies and gentlemen, because of her unyielding devotion to me and her desire to see me assume my place as the champion of the world, Precious has agreed to trade herself to Rick Martel in exchange for his AWA World championship!"

The room became abuzz again. Reporters scribbled wildly, not wanting to miss a single word. A few thoughts permeated the dressing room walls: If this is just another one of Garvin's psychological charades, then why did Martel leave the arena so quickly? Why was he so withdrawn after a victory? Why isn't he here to defend himself?

Garvin explained the bizarre situation: "Apparently, Rick Martel has been in love with Precious for quite some time now. I can't fault the man for falling for a woman as intelligent and beautiful as my Precious, but rather than making his intentions known, like an adult, he instead has sent her surreptitious love letters for the past year, declaring his undying love. The more she ignored him, the more desperate he became until, as all of you witnessed a few months ago, he attacked her in the ring, the

poor man's frustrations getting the best of him on television. It was then that Precious struck on the idea of exchanging herself for the belt. When she suggested it to Martel, he didn't hesitate for a moment.

"There is an obvious dearth of fine-looking women in Canada and with Martel's personality resembling a dead man's, it's hard for the guy to find suitable companionship. Precious doesn't care. She has nothing but contempt for a man like Martel who would sacrifice his integrity for the sake of a woman. She'll be with him in body, but her mind, soul, and spirit will always be with me. Eventually, a man like Martel will self-destruct anyway, and then we'll be back together. The important thing is that I will become the World champion."

With that, Garvin stepped off of the pedestal and embraced Precious. With tears streaming down her face, she announced, "I do this for you Jim Garvin because I love you more than I love life itself," and, raising a glass of champagne, she announced, "Drink everyone, drink to the next champion of the world!"

The two then left the dressing room together, leaving the reporters to sort through the startling revelations. Martel was contacted at home and told of the allegations. It was a tired voice that answered Garvin's accusations.

"You know, in all my years of wrestling I've never encountered anyone like Garvin. It's much harder fighting him out of the ring than in it. As a wrestler he's fair and easily manageable, but once he gets an audience he's impossible."

(Continued on page 54)

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**August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT:** Koffoff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

**June 1982/COLOR POSTER:** Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Flair.

**August 1982/COLOR POSTER:** Dino Bravio. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blasie.

**September 1982/COLOR POSTER:** Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

**October 1982/COLOR POSTER:** Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

**December 1982/COLOR POSTER:** Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

**January 1983/COLOR POSTER:** Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

**February 1983/COLOR POSTER:** Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

**April 1983/COLOR POSTER:** Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Máscaras. PLUS: Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

**June 1983/COLOR POSTER:** Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

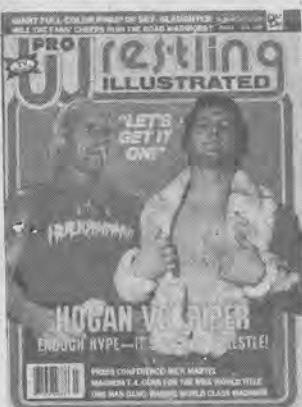
**July 1983/COLOR POSTER:** Ivan Koffoff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

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**October 1983/COLOR POSTER:** Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

**November 1983/COLOR POSTER:** Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

**December 1983/COLOR POSTER:** Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.



## JULY 1985

**January 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

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**July 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. JYD, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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**September 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The PWI Years.

**October 1984/COLOR POSTER:** Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

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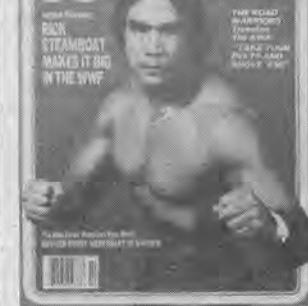
**June 1985/COLOR POSTER:** Barry Windham. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, Magnum T.A.

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## RICK MARTEL

(Continued from page 52)

But what about Precious, Rick? What about the trade?

"I'm surprised any of you fell for that nonsense. Forget the obligation I have to all my fans and my family, forget the fact that I find Precious incredibly unattractive, do you think that I can go around and trade my championship in like a used car? C'mon, I thought you were smarter than that. I'm just tired of having to defend myself against Garvin's cheap

rumors. It affects my concentration. It throws me off my game. And that's why I didn't stick around after the match."

The question that remains for wrestling fans, and for Jim Garvin and Precious, is can these artificial distractions affect Rick Martel enough to cost him the title? The answer to that question will tell us how much Martel has matured as a world champion. □



## BUDDY LANDELL

(Continued from page 26)

looked around, obviously searching for someone he knew. His face fell when he realized that the person he was looking for wasn't there that night, and that we would have to wait for the other 12 people to be seated before we could get our own table.

"Sorry about that, Craig," Landell said apologetically.

"No problem," I replied, making another mental note: Flair took me to the finest steakhouse in the Carolinas, he knew everyone in the restaurant, and we were seated immediately at a quiet table away from all the other diners.

When the maître d' finally brought Landell and me to our table, we were in a corner next to the kitchen door. I sighed, we ordered a bottle of wine, and I forged ahead with my interview, despite the fact that each question, and in turn each of Landell's answers, was seasoned by the sound of waiters and waitresses going to and fro through the kitch-

en doors.

"Pretty good restaurant, huh?" Landell smiled. I agreed, even though I didn't. "Look, let's talk wrestling. I just want to say right now, and for the record, that I have been overlooked in the World Championship area. And I'm getting fed up with it."

"Overlooked?" I asked. "Look, Buddy, you wrestled Magnum T.A. for the U.S. title when he had it, and you've wrestled Ric Flair for the NWA World title. A lot of wrestlers would like to have had those two matches in the past couple of months. So what's your problem?"

"I don't have any problem! As far as T.A. goes, I'm the man who weakened him for Tully Blanchard. As far as Flair goes, he's gone. He's passe. He's had it. I'm the Nature Boy for the '80s, I've got a better figure-four, and I've got superior management."

I interrupted Landell. "But you don't have the NWA World title."

"That's only a matter of time," Landell said. "Look, I don't know what Flair's problem is. You ask me about my problem, and I'll tell you I have none, but I wonder what Flair's is! Hey—just because I'm the heir apparent to Ric Flair doesn't mean he has to have such a big chip on his shoulder where I'm concerned."

"You don't think he's annoyed that you're emulating his lifestyle?"

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," Landell replied. "Why doesn't Ric Flair like me? He should be honored that a young lion like myself has made him his role model."

Somehow I doubted that as easily as I doubted the fact that Landell had a very good idea of what the Ric Flair lifestyle was all about anyway. As if in answer to my thoughts, a waitress holding a tray of food—*our* food, by the way—came out of the kitchen and collided with a waiter heading into the kitchen with a tray full of empty dishes. I winced at the sound of the crash and the sight of my veal piccata sliding across the floor.

The waiter came to our table, apologized for our dinner having become garbage, and assured us that a new meal would be coming soon. He brought us another bottle of wine and said that tonight the bill would be on the house.

"Pretty nice gesture, huh?" Landell said. "It worked out so well you might think I'd have tripped the waitress or something." Landell shot me a sly smile, and I practically lost my appetite.

No, Landell doesn't have the slightest idea of what the Ric Flair lifestyle was all about. Not out of the ring, anyway. And I suspect that after a few more meetings with Flair in the ring, Landell will have to think twice about laying claim to Flair's legacy of greatness. □

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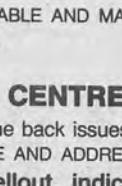
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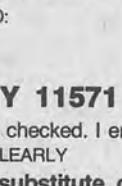
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## ROCK 'N' ROLL

(Continued from page 29)



I was still a little confused. I wondered how this method of training could be productive, and I pointed out that any flesh-and-blood opponent would probably not be vulnerable to a hip toss at that point in the match.

"See, the point isn't that a hip toss would necessarily be the right move in that particular instance," Gibson explained. "What we're trying to do here is to sharpen our style in terms of tag off speed and individual reaction time. Rick's reaction was superb in that case. He stopped himself dead and moved into a hiproll stance, which is not easy when you're rebounding at full tilt off the ropes."

I was beginning to understand. Morton and Gibson aren't in training to work on specific maneuvers. Instead, they deal in abstract generalities such as speed and reaction time. They develop those qualities on a general level, and then they are in turn able to apply them in specific match situations when they arise.

I had never heard of any tag team training themselves in this way.

"It's important to be spontaneous but controlled," Morton said, "and that's part of the success of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. And believe me, this training helps."

Are speed and reaction time the only factors that Morton and Gibson con-

centrate on?

"No, but they're two of the most important," Gibson said, "and they're the two that we're working on today. See, we're both young guys. We're not particularly heavy—our combined weight is under 500 pounds—so we rely on speed and the element of surprise to help overcome our opponents."

Is speed the most important factor to the success of The Rock 'n' Roll Express?

"Speed, of course, and stamina," Morton said. "Stamina is equally important. But as for the most important factor, that would have to be our attitude."

"Absolutely," Gibson agreed. "Without the proper attitude, without being able to get along with each other, the team is going to go right down the tubes. We're together so much. We spend a couple of hours every day in

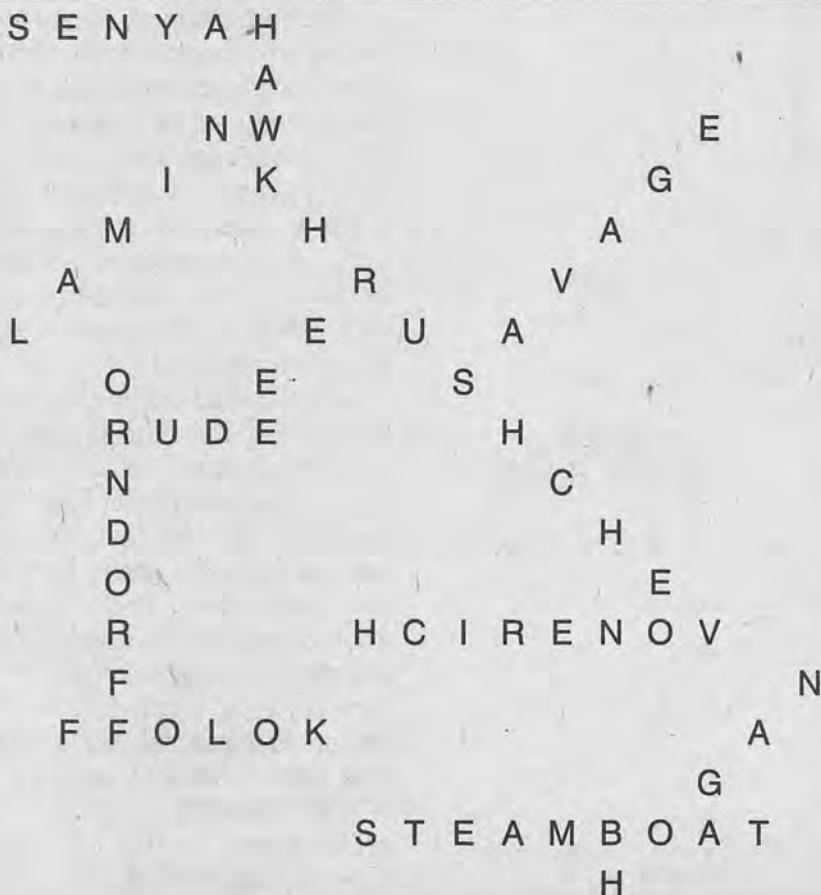
training. Then there's traveling together, prematch warmups . . . it all adds up. Sometimes it's like we're Siamese twins!"

Gibson and Morton climbed back into the ring and began wrestling their imaginary opponents once more. As Gibson was in midair throwing a drop-kick, Morton called to his partner from the ring apron. Immediately upon hitting the canvas, Gibson scrambled 180 degrees to the other side of the ring and delivered another drop-kick as Morton set himself up for a sunset flip.

Sitting in my privileged ringside seat, surrounded by empty chairs and the memories of seeing The Rock 'n' Roll Express in live action many times against difficult opponents, I realized that Morton and Gibson are truly one of the best tag teams in the sport today—and they're getting better all the time. □

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

(Continued from page 23)



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## HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 31)

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## RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 35)

that Steamboat favors is a variation of PKA (Professional Karate Association) full-contact.

PKA full-contact fighting, sometimes referred to as "kickboxing," is a hybrid mixture of conventional boxing and basic karate, though many competitors mix skills drawn from a wide range of martial arts. PKA matches are fought in a boxing ring, and each fighter must throw a minimum of eight hard kicks per two-minute round; bouts range from five rounds (preliminary level) to 12 rounds (world championship level).

What is most interesting about PKA is that the fighters must be proficient in both boxing and karate, as blows are thrown with both the hands and the feet. Competitors are blending styles from two disciplines—and that's exactly what Steamboat is doing in the wrestling ring: blending two disciplines. He is much like a PKA fighter who has substituted wrestling skills for boxing skills.

Indeed, Steamboat's style is very similar to that of a PKA fighter. Leg sweeps, legal in PKA, are also a

(Continued on page 60)

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## RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 58)

common element of Steamboat's style. And the karate thrusts to the head and chest, the "hard kicks" that PKA fighters must throw in each round, have become regular features of a Rick Steamboat wrestling match.

Steamboat has not overhauled his entire wrestling style. He still dazzles opponents with what has got to be considered one of the most formidable dropkicks in the entire world. And his flying bodypress from the top rope ranks right up there with those of Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and Mil Mascaras.

One final point: A lot of fans are wondering why Steamboat never allowed his martial artistry to express itself more while he was in the NWA. A look at the *Official Rules Of Professional Wrestling* (sixth edition; 1973) as sanctioned by the National Wrestling Alliance may provide the answer:

"The use of karate or kung fu thrusts or kicks is prohibited. Certain non-lethal judo moves, which may resemble these prohibited maneuvers, are allowed. Referees are expected to exercise extreme care in differentiating between legal and non-legal martial arts tactics."

The WWF rulebook contains no such restrictions on karate or kung fu thrusts and kicks.

### ***The Mental Dimension***

"Perhaps the most basic thing that people have got to understand is that someone can have all the physical training in the world, can achieve mastery in half a dozen of the martial arts, and it will all

be completely and utterly useless unless that person has the proper mental training to utilize those physical skills."

So said Joe Bua, a former associate editor of this magazine and current editor of the California-based magazine *Inside Karate*. Since Bua was a keen observer and analyst of the wrestling scene for several years, and since he is now deeply involved with all aspects of the martial arts on a daily basis, he is uniquely qualified to comment on the recent developments that have taken place in Steamboat's career.

"It doesn't matter which martial art you're talking about," Bua said, "the foundation of that art has got to be mental discipline. And that's a part of the beauty of the martial arts. They stress the mental dimension of competition, they elevate mental discipline to the same level as physical discipline, and that's good."

"I've been following Rick Steamboat's career for a long time," Bua continued. "I find him to be a fascinating individual. And I think that recently, since his move to the WWF, he's rediscovered that mental discipline that, years ago, enabled him to capture the Mid-Atlantic title, U.S. heavyweight title, and the NWA World tag team title. He's had to incorporate a style that involves less pure wrestling and more martial artistry in order to achieve that discipline, but I would say that he's a more dangerous—and potentially more successful—competitor than ever before."

(Continued on page 62)

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April 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

May 1985/Cover stories: Albano, Freebirds-Flair. PLUS: Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas closeup.

June 1985/Cover story: Pro Wrestling U.S.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches. PLUS: Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Cover stories: Flair vs. Nikita. PLUS: Orndorf, Slaughter, Haynes, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Cover stories: Adams vs. Von Erich, Orndorf. PLUS: Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta action.

October 1985/Cover stories: Martel vs. Hayes, Richter. PLUS: Savage, Adams, Magnum T.A., Road Warriors.

November 1985/Cover stories: Freebirds vs. Warriors, Mid-South action. PLUS: Billy Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Cover stories: Hogan, Zbyszko vs. Martel. PLUS: Youngblood, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

## SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING

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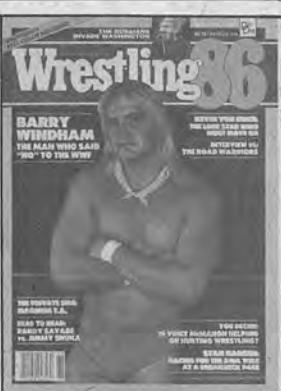
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### Wrestling 86

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## RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 60)

### A Delicate Balance?

It should be noted, however, that the discipline of mind and determination of purpose that Steamboat has achieved may be jeopardized for some of the very reasons that Steamboat made the decision to come to the WWF in the first place: wide-scale publicity and championship acclaim.

• **Publicity.** In the August issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine, an article entitled, "10 Super-Sexy Super-Available Sports Hunks—Do You Stand A Sporting Chance With Them?" featured Steamboat as one of the 10 "hunks." One has to wonder: With this kind of attention and adoration, will Steamboat be able to maintain the level of mental discipline and focus necessary to continue the work he's already begun in the WWF?

• **Championships.** You've heard the story before: Scientific sensation and enormous fan favorite comes to the WWF in search of championship acclaim only to be frustrated by the fact that the two major WWF titles are held by fan favorites and WWF policy is to never match fan favorite against fan favorite. Hulk Hogan holds the WWF World title; Tito Santana is the WWF Intercontinental champion. How long can The Dragon withstand the frustration of not receiving championship matches?

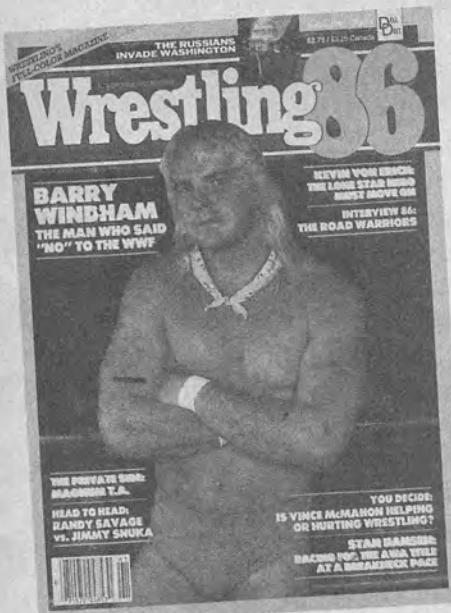
Common questions, perhaps, but valid nonetheless.

Yet if Steamboat is able to conquer those two major hurdles, and if he is able to maintain a presence of mind equal to his physical abilities, the success he's already enjoyed in 1985 will be just the beginning.

And when 1986 rolls around, it may truly become the greatest year of The Dragon ever! □

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# TITO SANTANA

(Continued from page 45)



In the NWA, Ric Flair is faced with literally hundreds of contenders who merit a crack at his 10 pounds of gold. And although Flair honors these responsibilities to the point of exhaustion, he needn't worry about granting them all title shots. If, say, the seventh-ranked contender in the World Class region desires an NWA title match, he realizes he must win a regional title—American, Texas, or TV—to blast his way to the higher echelon of Flair's waiting list. There are three top rungs on the NWA ladder of status: NWA World champion, regional champions, and top regional contenders.

In the WWF, there are no regional champions. The very name, "Intercontinental champion" indicates the global nature of Tito Santana's championship. Basically, he faces threats from any wrestler who is not entirely preoccupied with Hogan's title—and Hulk is engaged in no major feuds or struggles as of press time. There are no major regional titles in the vast environs of the WWF. This is one of the primary contributing factors in the "WWF burnout" so often bewailed by our readers. It has been suggested

that the WWF adopt a TV belt (which would be particularly appropriate for an organization that gets so much air time), or some other singles title. Perhaps they should adopt a regional title or two, to heighten interest and competition in new areas they have entered (e.g., Southern California, the Midwest). This would simultaneously relieve pressure on the existing champions and create opportunities for the many talented WWF wrestlers landlocked on undercards.

As matters stand, however, Tito Santana must persevere as a world champion with a second-string title. He faces virtually the same opponents as Hulk Hogan. He maintains a busier schedule than Hogan, and his home territory, like Hogan's, encompasses the planet Earth. He is not a regional kingpin bucking for the ultimate throne. He is, in all respects, a world champion.

One wonders what is going through Tito's mind as he attempts to twist Iron Mike Sharpe's left arm out of its tender socket (pictured above). Perhaps he realizes that Sharpe is one of the tough, extremely skilled .500 wrestlers in the WWF who would benefit from a regional or TV title to chase. (Throughout his career, Sharpe has been a local champion and a WWF enigma.) Perhaps Tito is intent upon proving to his beloved fans that he is, indeed, a true world champion. And perhaps—just possibly—he envisions a blond (but balding) giant of a man on the other end of his armtwist, a man he actually battled to several indecisive finishes in the WWF in 1980—a man who was then jeered at and spat upon by the fans, a man who would go on to become the most popular wrestler of the decade.

Tito Santana may never wrestle Hulk Hogan. But he remains a world champion in the hearts of his fans. □

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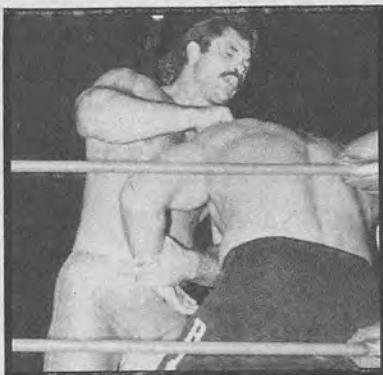
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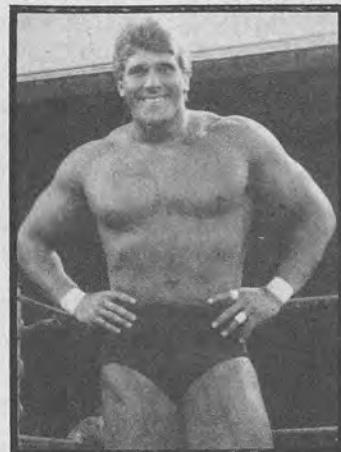
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## Inside Wrestling



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Are **THE VON ERICH'S** making their cousin **LANCE** their fall guy?

### PLUS . . .

The AWA's future is in **SCOTT HALL'S** hands . . . **ANDRE THE GIANT'S** battle plan: slay two giants to capture a weasel! . . . "Hotseat" interview with **BILL WATTS**: "**HULK HOGAN** couldn't last five minutes in a Mid-South match!" . . . **STAN HANSEN** and **RICK MARTEL** go "One on One"

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# Victory Sports Wrestling



*Butch Reed*

## TOP 10

- 1—RIC FLAIR  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—HULK HOGAN  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—DUSTY RHODES  
302, Austin, TX
- 4—MAGNUM T.A.  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—STAN HANSEN  
322, Borger, TX
- 6—TITO SANTANA  
245, Mission, TX
- 7—RANDY SAVAGE  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 8—BUTCH REED  
265, Kansas City, MO
- 9—NIKITA KOLOFF  
275, Moscow, Russia
- 10—RICK MARTEL  
236, Quebec City, Quebec

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS  
*No. 1 contenders to AWA and NWA World tag team titles*  
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON  
*NWA World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 483 pounds
- 3—IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF  
*No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title*  
Combined weight: 524 pounds
- 4—GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE  
*WWF World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 511 pounds
- 5—OLE & ARN ANDERSON  
*National tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 528 pounds
- 6—CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ  
*World Class tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 484 pounds
- 7—JIM GARVIN & STEVE REGAL  
*AWA World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 473 pounds
- 8—DYNAMITE KID & DAVEY BOY SMITH  
*No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title*  
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 9—STEVE WILLIAMS & TED DIBIASE  
*Mid-South tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 542 pounds
- 10—KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH  
*No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title*  
Combined weight: 499 pounds

## NWA

- World Champion:*  
**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 1—MAGNUM T.A.  
245, Chesapeake, VA
  - 2—DUSTY RHODES  
302, Austin, TX
  - 3—NIKITA KOLOFF  
275, Moscow, Russia
  - 4—BUTCH REED  
265, Kansas City, MO
  - 5—RICK RUDE  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
  - 6—KERRY VON ERICH  
260, Denton, TX
  - 7—HARLEY RACE  
253, Kansas City, MO
  - 8—KEVIN VON ERICH  
239, Denton, TX
  - 9—WAHOO McDANIEL  
260, Midland, TX
  - 10—LANCE VON ERICH  
245, Dallas

## AWA

- World Champion:*  
**STAN HANSEN**  
322, Borger, TX
- 1—SGT. SLAUGHTER  
310, Parris Island, SC
  - 2—RICK MARTEL  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
  - 3—LARRY ZBYSZKO  
248, Pittsburgh, PA
  - 4—NICK BOCKWINDEL  
245, Beverly Hills, CA
  - 5—BORIS ZUKHOV  
254, Leningrad, Russia
  - 6—SCOTT HALL  
290, Minneapolis, MN
  - 7—THE BARBARIAN  
316, parts unknown
  - 8—JIM GARVIN  
235, Tampa, FL
  - 9—CURT HENNIG  
235, Minneapolis, MN
  - 10—GREG GAGNE  
220, Robbinsdale, MN

## WWF

- World Champion:*  
**HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 1—TITO SANTANA  
245, Mission, TX
  - 2—RANDY SAVAGE  
245, Sarasota, FL
  - 3—RICK STEAMBOAT  
238, Honolulu, HI
  - 4—PAUL ORNDORFF  
253, Brandon, FL
  - 5—MAGNIFICENT MURACO  
274, Sunset Beach, HI
  - 6—TERRY FUNK  
247, Amarillo, TX
  - 7—KING KONG Bundy  
446, Atlantic City, NJ
  - 8—RODDY PIPER  
231, Scotland
  - 9—ANDRE THE GIANT  
505, Grenoble, France
  - 10—JOHN STUDD  
364, Washington, DC
- ## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
- 1—MAGNUM T.A.  
245, Chesapeake, VA
  - 2—DUSTY RHODES  
302, Austin, TX
  - 3—KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV  
303, Thief River Falls, MN
  - 4—TULLY BLANCHARD  
235, San Antonio, TX
  - 5—NIKITA KOLOFF  
275, Moscow, Russia
  - 6—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM  
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
  - 7—KONGA THE BARBARIAN  
265, Chicago, IL
  - 8—SAM HOUSTON  
218, Waco, TX
  - 9—RONNIE GARVIN  
231, Montreal, Quebec
  - 10—JIMMY VALIANT  
251, New York, NY

# OFFICIAL

# WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD CLASS

- 1—RICK RUDE  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—THE GRAPPLER  
241, parts unknown
- 3—BRIAN ADDIAS  
238, Denton, TX
- 4—KERRY VON ERICH  
260, Denton, TX
- 5—GINO HERNANDEZ  
224, Houston, TX
- 6—KEVIN VON ERICH  
239, Denton, TX
- 7—CHRIS ADAMS  
230, Stratford, England
- 8—LANCE VON ERICH  
260, Dallas, TX
- 9—THE MISSING LINK  
273, parts unknown
- 10—ICEMAN PARSONS  
242, St. Louis, MO

## MID-SOUTH

- 1—BUTCH REED  
265, Kansas City, MO
- 2—DICK SLATER  
235, Tampa, FL
- 3—HUMONGOUS  
318, parts unknown
- 4—STEVE WILLIAMS  
265, Tulsa, OK
- 5—HACKSAW DUGGAN  
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 6—TERRY TAYLOR  
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 7—DICK MURDOCH  
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 8—TED DIBIASE  
247, Omaha, NB
- 9—BUZZ SAWYER  
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 10—JAKE ROBERTS  
243, Baton Rouge, LA

## FLORIDA

- 1—LEX LUGAR  
280, Chicago, IL
- 2—KENDALL WINDHAM  
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—BARRY WINDHAM  
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 4—KEVIN SULLIVAN  
239, Boston, MA
- 5—MIKE GRAHAM  
229, Tampa, FL
- 6—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN  
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—MAYA SINGH  
273, Tampa, FL
- 8—TYREE PRIDE  
231, Haiti
- 9—WAHOO McDANIEL  
260, Midland, TX
- 10—HECTOR GUERRERO  
243, Mexico

## MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—BILL DUNDEE  
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 2—JERRY LAWLER  
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—DUTCH MANTEL  
242, Bucksnorth, TN
- 4—KOKO WARE  
229, Union City, TN
- 5—PHIL HICKERSON  
238, Jackson, TN
- 6—HARLEY RACE  
253, Kansas City, MO
- 7—TARRAS BULBA  
237, Outer Mongolia
- 8—BOTA  
270, Maori Islands
- 9—JERRY JARRETT  
223, Nashville, TN
- 10—TOJO YAMAMOTO  
230, Tokyo, Japan

## CONTINENTAL

- 1—ROBERTO SOTO  
231, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET  
227, South Wales
- 3—ROBERT FULLER  
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 4—BRAD ARMSTRONG  
226, Marietta, GA
- 5—TIM HORNER  
235, Morristown, TN
- 6—THE BULLET  
234, parts unknown
- 7—MR. OLYMPIA  
245, parts unknown
- 8—RON FULLER  
275, Knoxville, TN
- 9—TOMMY RICH  
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 10—JOHNNY RICH  
232, Hendersonville, TN

## NORTHWEST

- 1—BOBBY JAGGERS  
265, Dunlap, KS
- 2—BILLY JACK HAYNES  
245, Portland
- 3—RIP OLIVER  
245, Tampa, FL
- 4—MEGA MAHARISHI  
260, Portland, OR
- 5—MIKE MILLER  
260, Memphis, TN
- 6—TOM ZENK  
237, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—MOONDOG MORETTI  
245, Boise, ID
- 8—GARY ROYAL  
231, Kansas City, MO
- 9—BRADY BOONE  
236, Charlotte, NC
- 10—BILLY TWO EAGLES  
223, San Antonio, TX

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—HULK HOGAN  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—DUSTY RHODES  
302, Austin, TX
- 3—KERRY VON ERICH  
260, Denton, TX
- 4—MAGNUM T.A.  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—RICK STEAMBOAT  
238, Honolulu, HI
- 6—TITO SANTANA  
245, Mission, TX
- 7—KEVIN VON ERICH  
239, Denton, TX
- 8—HACKSAW DUGGAN  
280, New York, NY
- 9—BARRY WINDHAM  
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 10—HILLBILLY JIM  
282, Mud Lick, KY

## MOST HATED

- 1—RIC FLAIR  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—DICK MURDOCH  
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 4—MAGNIFICENT MURACO  
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 5—NIKITA KOLOFF  
276, Moscow, Russia
- 6—RODDY PIPER  
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 7—STAN HANSEN  
322, Borger, TX
- 8—CHRIS ADAMS  
230, Stratford, England
- 9—STEVE WILLIAMS  
295, Tulsa, OK
- 10—TULLY BLANCHARD  
235, San Antonio, TX

For period ended January 2, 1986

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

**For every action ...** Back in the February 1986 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, we experimented with something a little bit unusual: ratings for a category normally never rated. Mainly, ratings of wrestling announcers.

As we pointed out then, announcers are in fact quite rateable. There are very good wrestling announcers and there are very bad wrestling announcers, and reasons for any person being one or the other. The top 10 we listed were ranked on the basis of several criteria.

First and foremost of those criteria was knowledge. An analyst of match action should be knowledgeable enough to recognize that a particular wrestler has various strengths and weaknesses, and should recognize when those strengths and weaknesses come into play. The announcer should also know that the wrestler has a history of competition behind him. Several WWF announcers, for example, are notorious for ignoring the past of a wrestler who has just entered the region.

Other important criteria involved delivery (how smoothly an individual speaks on the air, and how understandable the words are that he is saying), analysis (tying together diverse elements both of a wrestler's history and of current events in his career to provide a perspective on the individual), and objectivity (an announcer should not be overly partial to either popular or hated wrestlers). Plus pure entertainment value.

Beneath each announcer's name is listed the area or areas for which they do commentary. No distinction was made between blow-by-blow or color commentators, as most wrestling announcers tend to do double duty in this area.



Ken Resnick

**ANNOUNCERS TOP 10**

1—JESSE VENTURA	<i>World Wrestling Federation</i>
2—TONY SCHIAVONE	<i>World Championship Wrestling</i>
3—GORDON SOLIE	<i>Florida &amp; Continental areas</i>
4—JIM ROSS	<i>Mid-South Wrestling</i>
5—JOEL WATTS	<i>Mid-South Wrestling</i>
6—MARK LOWRENCE	<i>World Class Wrestling</i>
7—BRUNO SAMMARTINO	<i>World Wrestling Federation</i>
8—LANCE RUSSELL	<i>Mid-Southern Wrestling</i>
9—KEN RESNICK	<i>American Wrestling Association</i>
10—BILL MERCER	<i>World Class Wrestling</i>

... there is an equal and opposite reaction: Hoo, boy! When we published those announcer ratings, we never imagined

that we'd receive the kind of response we did. But we did.

There was one letter we received that was just dripping with venom. It couldn't be ignored.

Once again, with the caveat that the following are *his* opinions and his alone, we present Chuck Brinson of Boston, who had this to say:

*I have had it up to here with your lousy ratings system. If I had an infinite number of monkeys typing away on an infinite number of typewriters for an infinite number of years, they might come up with all of Shakespeare's plays, but they couldn't come close to producing the level of stupidity I see reflected each month in your ratings and in "Ratings Analysis."*

*But the February 1986 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* was the last straw. Announcer ratings? What a waste of space! And you didn't even take the proper tack with them. If you're going to rate announcers, most of which are horrible to begin with (granted, Ventura is funny and Solie is a great analyst) why not rate the 10 worst announcers in the sport?*

*In order to correct your gross error, I've included my own ratings, 10 through one, with 10 being the absolute worst announcer I've ever seen or heard, and the next nine being pretty damn close. Print these ratings—if you dare! And by the way, doesn't it tell you something that half of these lousy 10 are WWF announcers?*

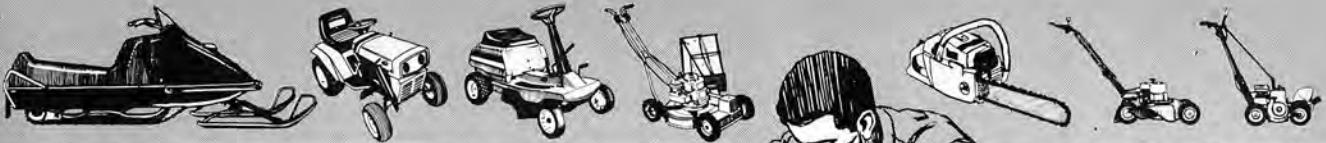


Lord Al Hays

**BRINSON'S BOTTOM 10**

10—GORILLA MONSOON	<i>WWF wrestling</i>
9—KEN RESNICK	<i>Pro Wrestling USA</i>
8—VINCE McMAHON	<i>WWF wrestling</i>
7—BOB CAUDLE	<i>Mid-Atlantic wrestling</i>
6—BRUNO SAMMARTINO	<i>WWF wrestling</i>
5—BILL MERCER	<i>World Class wrestling</i>
4—LARRY NELSON	<i>AWA wrestling</i>
3—LORD AL HAYS	<i>Wrestling TNT</i>
2—DAVID CROCKETT	<i>World Championship Wrestling</i>
1—GENE OKERLUND	<i>WWF wrestling</i>

**The address for mail:** There's no reason you shouldn't send us abusive mail, just as Chuck Brinson did. Forward your comments to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o Victory Sports Wrestling; Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11570. □



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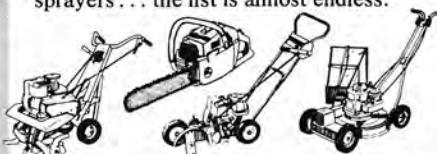
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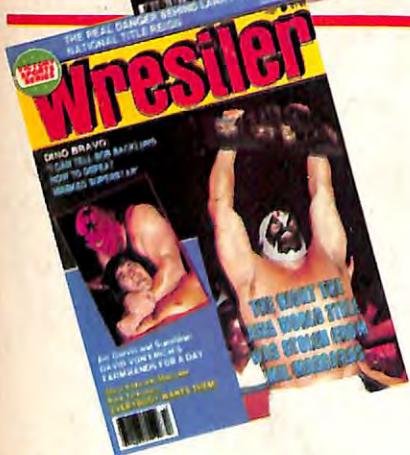
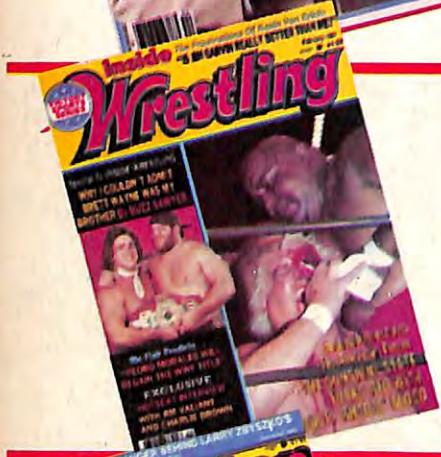
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